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ENTERPRISE

Will Eisner's THE SPIRIT

26



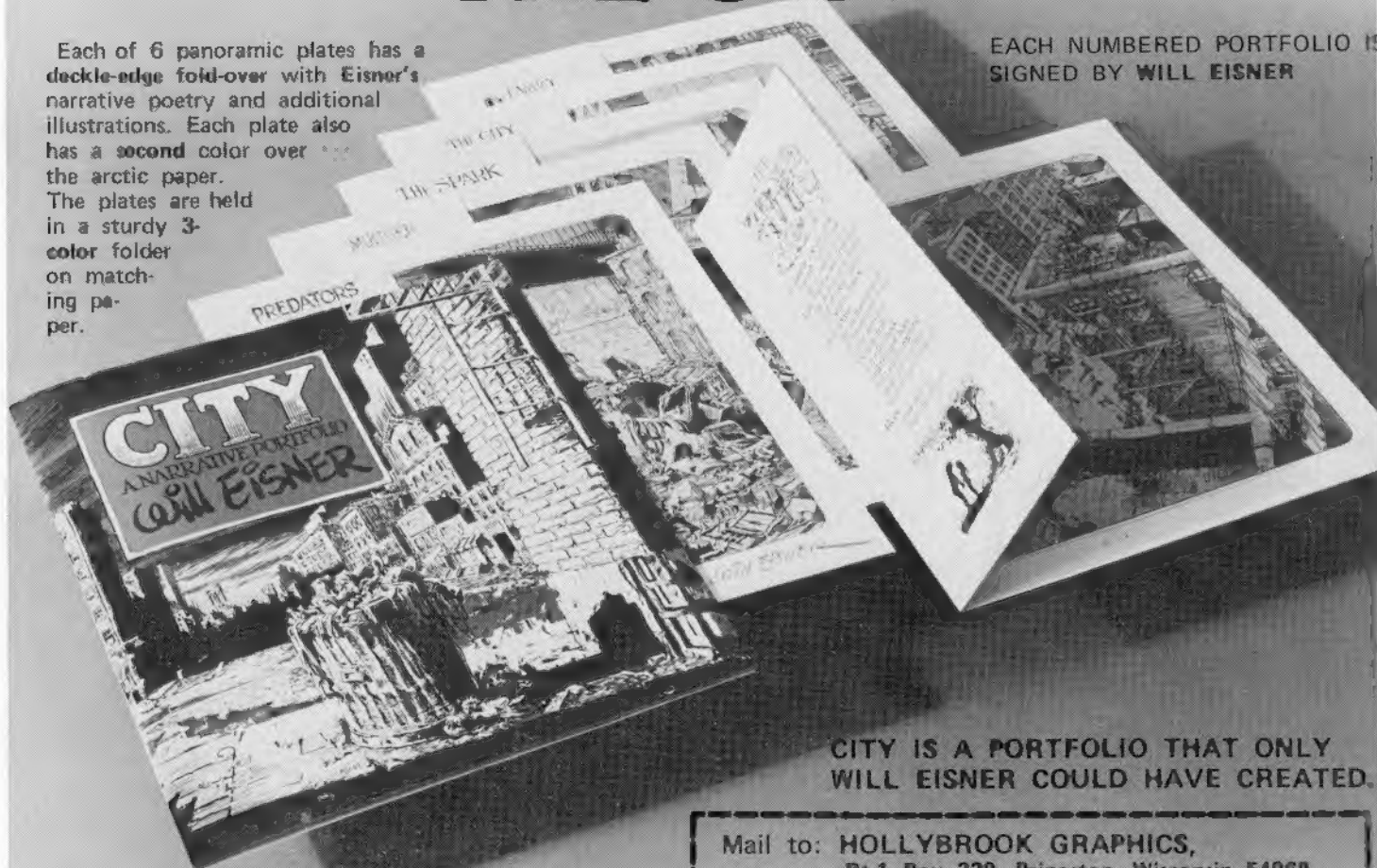
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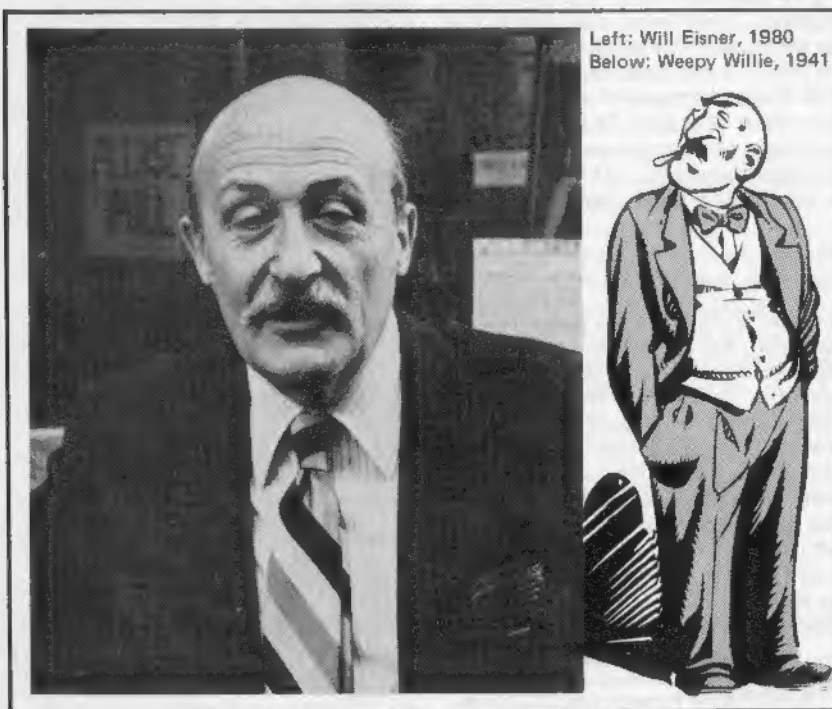
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

THE DEPT. of LOOSE ENDS

In answer to reader requests, we are featuring a brightly colored cover ("garish" was the term someone used back in the letter column of issue 25) and by now you may be wondering who the enthusiastic woman pursuing Our Hero is. Her name is **Nylon Rose** and she only appeared twice throughout *The Spirit's* run—but believe me, twice was enough! Both of her stories are reprinted in this issue. Originally published in March and April of 1946, they feature the kind of "discontinuous continuity" Will Eisner often used when he created a character he liked, and wanted to bring him or her (usually her) back for a return engagement. In fact, when the artwork for these two tales was dug out of the vault, Will asked if there were only two **Nylon Rose** stories. Assured that there were no more, he sighed, "Too bad! I kinda like her... I should have used her again..." Frankly, **Denny Colt** might not have survived a third close encounter with **Ms. Rose**—she plays rough!

So if that's **Nylon Rose** on the front cover, who's the skinny dude threatening to carve *The Spirit* up with a sword on the front? To find out, you'll have to read the 1947 story, "Umbrella Handles," where he co-stars with everybody's favorite villain, **The Octopus**.

The pre-war reprint section this time is "The Confessions of Monks Mallon," a crime drama which features a minor thug called **Weepy Willie**. If you think Eisner looks like **Dolan**, wait'll you get a look at *this* guy! Unlike **Slippery Eall**, who was a deliberate self-parody (see *Spirit* No. 24), **Weepy Willie**, drawn when Will had a full head of curly black hair and lacked a mustache, is another one of those strange cases of life imitating art—forty years later.



Left: Will Eisner, 1980
Below: Weepy Willie, 1941

Finally, in addition to the last chapter of "Life on Another Planet," we are running a brand new three page piece by Eisner entitled "The Public Interest." This is the first of what promises to be an occasional series of short treatments of various social issues—and as usual, your comments on both the subject matter and the use of comics to present such ideas are very welcome.

ANNOUNCING A NEW SPIRIT SCHEDULE

So much for *this* issue. The astute may notice that "The Spirit Checklist" is a page shorter this time, due to space considerations. It will return to its regular two-page length next issue. That issue will be coming your way sooner than you think, for with issue number 27, *The Spirit* goes bi-monthly! Not only will you be getting two more issues a year, each issue will contain eight more pages (some of which will contain advertising). Obviously, the magazine would not be expanding like this if we were not receiving plenty of reader support—and so, to all of you who have helped make *The Spirit* a success, we would like to say "thank you." Thank you very much.

Cat Yronwode

THE SPIRIT

Editor-in-Chief
WILL EISNER

Editor & Publisher
DENIS KITCHEN

Associate Editor
CAT YRONWODE

Circulation
MICHAEL JACOBI

Subscriptions
SUE SCHMIDT

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- 2...Classified Ads. Send yours!
- 4...Spirit Checklist, part five.
- 5...What exactly is "The Public Interest?" Will Eisner examines this social question in a brand new 3-page story.
- 8...The Confessions of Monks Mallon. A pre-war *Spirit* story containing an unintentional look-alike (see column at left).
- 16...Nylon Rose. This agent has a very active libido, as *The Spirit* quickly discovers.
- 23...The Kissing Caper. When lipstick prints are found on male victims, **Ellen** replaces *The Spirit* in the investigation.
- 30...Umbrellas! **The Octopus** and *The Spirit* save each other's lives against a common swashbuckling foe.
- 37...The Last Chapter of Will Eisner's "Life on Another Planet" epic.
- 53...The Man in the Moon. Another segment of the **Wally Wood** outer space serial.

Will Eisner's *THE SPIRIT*, No.26. Published by Kitchen Sink Enterprises, a division of Krupp Comic Works, Inc., No.2 Swamp Rd, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968. Subscriptions \$12 per year (6 issues). Entire contents © copyright 1980 by Will Eisner. All rights reserved under Universal Copyright Convention. The name *The Spirit* is registered by the U.S. Patent Office, Marca Registrada, Marque Deposee. Nothing may be reproduced in whole or in part without permission of the publisher. This issue was printed in December 1980. Printed in U.S.A. Wholesale inquiries invited, (414) 295-3972.



LETTERS

GREAT COVER... BUT...

Posters of splash pages of old *Spirit* sections is a *great* idea! But... I'd prefer them printed the full size of the *Spirit* cover.

As I look at No. 25, how great it would have been if they were blown up to fill the entire page!

The airbrush color is fantastic!

Jim Jones

744 Pomelo Drive, Vista, California 92083

DELIGHTFUL COVER & COLOR

The wraparound cover of *Spirit* 25 was a delightful blend of the old and new, representing yet another in a long line of successful *Eisner* experiments.

I was also much impressed with *Leslie Cabarga's* vibrant colorations, and feel she would be the ideal choice if you ever decide to present any of the interior stories in color.

Kevin C. McConnell

118 Main Ave., Warren, Pennsylvania 16365

Kevin—Thanks for the compliments, but, for the record, *Leslie* is a male.

BRING ON LOU FINE STORIES

Great to hear that there are some proofs of *Eisner's* work that was completed by *Lou Fine* and some others by *Fine* alone when *Eisner* was in the military. I hope you can give us samples of both in future issues.

If *Eisner* was the comics' greatest creative entrepreneur, *Fine* certainly was the outstanding pure *artist* of the Golden Age. It was nice that you paid him some of the homage due him by reprinting a splash by him on your back cover [No. 25]. Reprints of full stories would give him the place he deserves in the history of *The Spirit*.

Jack H. Bender

2904 Cottage Row, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Yes—print some of the *Lou Fine* stories!

William Ray

3920-D Willowcrest Ave, Studio City, CA 91604

In issue No. 25 you asked your readers if they would like to see reprints of the *Eisner/Fine Spirit* stories. I would love to see those, as well as the *Spirit* stories by *Fine* alone. I think the perfect balance for the magazine would be to have all the stories but one to be by *Will Eisner*. Then,

for variety, you could have a story either drawn or written by someone else (*Lou Fine*, *Klaus Nordling* or *Jules Feiffer*.)

Gregory R. Jackson

P.O. Box 64345, Los Angeles, Calif. 90064

Just saw *The Spirit* No. 25 and was pleased to see the *Lou Fine* illo on the back cover. It is a beautiful piece of art. I sincerely hope you can reprint some of *Lou's Spirit* work that you mentioned in the "Loose Ends" department.

A few years ago I did a book on *Lou Fine's* career with *Gill Fox*, and his art was a joy to work with.

The Spirit mag is well done. Keep up the good work.

Al Dellenges

Cartoonews, Box 34158, San Francisco 94134

As I look at the *Spirit* No. 25, I am astounded at how much better each successive issue gets. From the graphics of the reprints themselves to the new material and the much-appreciated Department of Loose Ends, Checklist, and added text to the highly-innovative beautiful wrap-around cover. Sensational! The *Warren Spirits* were never this good.

Now please don't limit the magazine to just *Will Eisner's* material—though it should consist of at least 75% *Eisner*. Let us see at least one installment per issue, as you have been doing with *Wally Wood*, of the other *Spirit* artists, including *Lou Fine*.

Bob Pinaha

512 Benner St., Apt 1C, Highland Park, NJ

I find *The Spirit* to be the best buy in comics today. *Eisner's* work is nostalgic but fast-paced. It's hard to believe these are reprints. I started with *Warren's* magazine, but allowed many gaps which I am now paying premium prices for.

I think an issue should be devoted to *Lou Fine* or a complete wartime issue.

Please get a better distribution system. My last issue was from *Kinsmen*, Ohio and they sold out in one week.

Joseph Webb

745 Maple Ave., Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Joseph—Our distribution network grows with every issue. If the shop in *Kinsmen* sells out in a week, then the shop manager should be stocking larger quantities in his own self-interest. A loud complaint from a customer usually does the trick. Or you might consider subscribing.

STILL IN SHOCK FROM No. 25

I am sitting in the counselor's office in a local high school where I am doing my graduate practicum. I am still in shock over reading *Spirit* No. 25. What a superb issue! The wraparound cover is nothing short of fantastic. *Leslie Cabarga's* colors are stunning.

I must also comment on *Will Eisner's* "City" portfolio. I am a born and bred New Yorker. *Will's* visions are truly remarkable (and so true!) Everyone I show it to cannot help but be impressed. If only I could get them to buy it. I'll keep trying.

FREE SPIRIT CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY: We will run your ad absolutely FREE, but please try to keep your ad under 25 words. We reserve the right to edit ads to fit. Ads will NOT be repeated automatically. Resubmit for each issue if you want your ad or portions of it rerun. Ads must be related to *The Spirit*. Send ads to: *Spirit Classifieds*, Box 7-S, Princeton, Wis. 54968.

SPIRIT ITEMS WANTED

I pay good prices for *Spirit* Bags (all issues) and original *Spirit* sections. Send list and conditions. **Otto Pinnau**, Matthaeusgade 25 I + H, 1666 KBH V, Denmark.

Spirit 2' x 3' Poster in color by *Eisner*. **Paul Hamerlinck**, 2412 Centennial Drive, St. Cloud Minnesota 56301.

Australian Spirit fans (or others) with *Australian Wags* containing *Eisner* work (particularly *Sheena* cover) please contact **Cat Yronwode**, Box 86, Willow Springs, MO 65793.

Kitchen Spirits No. 1 and 2 and any *Spirit* Bags. Send quotations to **Mark Lockwood**, 619 E. Myrtle Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225. Please include condition.

Spirit Bags No. 1-4. Contact **Ed Willard**, 5825 Keith Street, Oakland, Calif. 94618.

Warren Spirits 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, *Spirit* Special, *Kitchen Sink Undergrounds* 1 and 2, *Spirit* Bags 1-4. There are many Scandinavian fans of *The Spirit*, but it is difficult to get books here. I hope someone can help. **Erik Horthe**, 2847 Kolbu, Norway.

"Bootleg" *Spirit* Bag needed to complete collection. **K. Arne Blom**, Smaskolevagen 22, S-223 67 Lund, Sweden.

Spirit Bags 1-4, *Warren Spirits* 4, 10, 13, *Spirit* Special, *Kitchen Undergrounds* 1-2. Send conditions and prices to **P. Krkonis**, 185 Silver St., Boston, Massachusetts 02127.

Spirit Bags No. 1 and 3 or the following individual reprint sections: Bag 1—June 2, 9, 16, 23(?), 30, July 7, 28, Bag 3—December 1st. Contact **Daryl Coats**, S.S. Box 7200, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401.

Spirit Bags, *Spirit* Special, and any unique or unusual item dealing with *The Spirit* or *Will Eisner*. Will pay any reasonable price. **Garry Joseph**, 841 S. Orange Grove, Los Angeles, California 90036.

SPIRIT ITEMS FOR SALE

Warren Spirit No.1 \$5, 2-5 \$4 each, 6-16 \$2 each. *Spirit* Special \$6. All excellent condition. **W.T. Ranney**, 709 Triphammer Rd, Apt. 1-2A, Ithaca, New York 14850.

NM-Mint Spirits: *Harvey* No.1 \$15, *Warren* 2-4 \$3.75 each, 6-11 \$2.75 each. Please add \$1 for postage. **Saga Fidlom**, 8352 Willis Ave., Apt. 28, Panorama City, California 91402.

Warren Spirits 3-5 \$3.50 each plus \$1 postage (all issues VF-NM). **Harvey Sobel**, 440 East 23rd St, Apt. 6A, New York, NY 10010.

Harvey Spirits No. 1 and 2, \$10 each (near mint). Add \$1 postage. **Cat Yronwode**, P.O. Box 86, Willow Springs, Missouri 65793.

Kitchen Sink Underground No.1 (mint) \$6. *Warren* No.1 (mint) \$6. Will trade. Send wants. **Greg Ketter**, 1163 Matilda Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55117.

Will Eisner self-portrait color button. No. 16 in a series of 54. \$1.50 postpaid. Full list of 100 cartoonist buttons with order. **Hollybrook Graphics**, Rt. 1 Box 329, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968.

It still blows some people's minds that a 28 year old Special Education teacher still reads comic books. Some really freak when I tell them how much some cost (like a *Spirit* section for \$30 or more).

By the way, I am interested in finding ladies in my age bracket who are into Eisner and such. I'd like them to write to me. I'm a good correspondent. Hoping to hear from somebody?

Peter Glass

211 Clarkson, No.23, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

HATES LIFE on ANOTHER PLANET

I'm sick of "Life on Another Planet." The story is dragged-out, hard to understand, boring, dull, and not as good as Eisner used to draw. I can't stand to see 16 pages wasted on characters whom I all hate.

If Eisner wants to draw new stories, why doesn't he do them about *The Spirit*, especially like the P'Gell story in *Kitchen No.2*, or "A Small Business" in *Spirit No. 18*?

Keep the Department of Loose Ends, 2 pages of letters, classifieds, and the super covers coming. How about something besides watercolor covers, though?

I still love your great book.

Joe Matt

885 Sycamore Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446

"PLANET" LIGHT YEARS ABOVE

Issue No. 25 is especially handsome; particularly when compared to the Warren packaging. A real class act. I must confess to a bit of surprise at the level of violence in "Life on Another Planet." Eisner isn't kidding around with this one! The sophistication of the story and layout set it light years away from the simpler times Denny Colt lived in.

Thomas W. Scott

200 Connellsville Street, Dunbar, PA 15431

WILL NOT TRANSLATE FOR US

Re your publisher's letter in No.25 about the European trip: being a French Canadian, I could translate your interview in the fascist newspaper, *Humanité*. But it'll be a hot day in February in Mari-court before I would! Those miserable French Communists can suck a piss-soaked issue of *Pravda*!

The Spirit stands against injustice. But these rotten fascists are for censorship, terror, criminal rule, etc. If Eisner stood by his creation he would have spit in the fascist dog's evil eye. Freedom forever! Communism never!

Kenneth Desmarais

35 High St., Peterborough, N.H. 03458

LONGTIME DEALER TURNS FAN

Having been a comic dealer and marginal collector for nearly 10 years, I'm surprised it took 8 of those years to become a *Spirit* fan. After seeing many Sunday sections and *Quality* comics pass thru my hands to satisfied customers, I thought I'd finally read one to see

what all the fuss was about. I'm hooked. No more selling *Spirits* for me!

It was interesting to read about your European trip. I was in London the same day as you but found out a day too late of Eisner's speaking/signing engagement. I'm still mad at myself for not stopping in the local comic shop as soon as I reached London.

Greg Ketter

1163 Matilda St., St. Paul, Minnesota 55117

A NEW YEAR'S POEM

So, once again *The Spirit's* here. You want eight bucks for another year. Herein I have enclosed a check (My bank account I'll promptly wreck But I should care? I like the book!) Excuse me while I move my rook... I've heard that stories marred by tint Of colors now can go to print! **The Hitler Story** must be first Or ye receive my Nazi curse!! And ditto in your gray-toned page For **The Spirit Origin** of an older age. Now be advised to put in stock Both **Carrion** and then **Carrion's Rock**. And I am curious, and hope you're too, To see **The Half-Dead Lox** anew! (I haven't seen it, but, I trow, The title is bizarre enow). Pull out **King Wang**, and fill your hand With another story as good ol' **Sand**. I have to see New Year '51 Or: How by Jules Will was undone, And I'll damned well holler & raise a fuss Till I get my fill of the **Octopus**! **Lou Fine** is good if he's with Will, But Fine alone you'll have to kill. And I'd have to say that **Wally Wood** Ain't comin' together like he should. Ah... but if you could get **Jack Cole**, His sections would revive my soul! And "Planet" in its twilight stage, Seems to improve on every page. As to this ish, the twenty-fifth, You seem to get more of the drift Than in the last (that cover's cute!) I dug Ms. Mews and Gallus, Coot. Your letters page is too congratulatory... There's not a hit in every story. But come on for just one more try, You hit more than you're missin'. (Sigh.)

Lou Mougin

826½ Plum street, Graham, Texas 76046

SPIRIT A HIT WITH SPORTS EDITOR

I have been a comics fan for nearly 45 years. I can remember reading--at the time they were published--*Action No.1*, *Detective No.27*, the original *Captain America* and many others.

But this background makes me an "expert" in only one area: I do know what I like. And *The Spirit* ranks high on my list. I liked it as a youngster and appreciate it more now as the fine piece of work it is. Thank you for keeping it alive for us and keep up the good work.

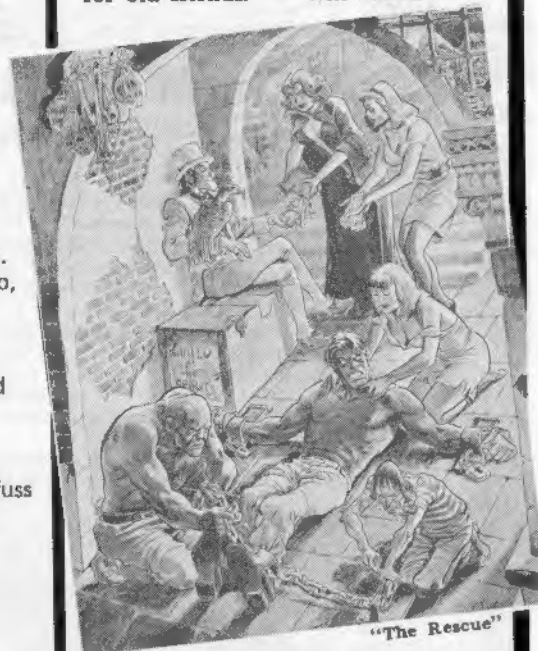
Merle Derrick, Sports Editor

Spokane Chronicle, Spokane, Washington

WILL EISNER'S

SPIRIT PORTFOLIO

"The ten plates that constitute this portfolio represent the essence of *The Spirit*... This undertaking was an effort to condense the hundreds of story situations that made up *The Spirit's* adventures. In that respect, this portfolio is for the *Spirit* fan. For in preparing [these plates] I was creating a sort of elaborate gift of memory-- a nostalgic thankyou for old friends." --Will Eisner



"The Rescue"

- Ten full-color plates printed on highest quality paper. Each plate dramatically captures the *Spirit* in a classic confrontation or situation.
- A bonus 11th plate, in black & white, showing pencil roughs by Eisner.
- A 12th sheet featuring a personal introduction by Will Eisner, with color photos.
- Housed in a heavy-duty squareback binding, cloth-bound board 1/8 inch thick, with stamped cover and drawings on the inside covers.
- Each portfolio is numbered and autographed by Eisner.

Remaining *Spirit* Portfolios are \$35 plus \$2 shipping via insured U.P.S. (foreign orders include \$5 postage).

HOLLYBROOK GRAPHICS
Rt.1 Box 329-S
Princeton, Wisconsin 54968



PART
FIVE

THE SPIRIT CHECKLIST

BY CATO BYRON WODE

ABBREVIATIONS OF COMICS AND MAGAZINES

CM	Comic Media	IW/P	IW Plastic Man	SB	Spirit Bag
E	Eerie	K	Kitchen Sink Spirit	SCB	Spirit Coloring Book
FH	Fiction House Spirit	M	Modern Comics	SM	Spiritman
H	Harvey Spirit	P	Police Comics	TCM	3 Comics Magazine
IW/S	IW/Super Spirit	Q	Quality/Vital Spirit	W	Warren Spirit

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**

600. 11/25/51. "I Hate The Spirit Because" FH 3/3 "The League of Liars" (C)
601. 12/2/51. (The Man From Mars)
602. 12/9/51. ("The Balloons")
603. 12/16/51. ("The Spirit Gets Older")
604. 12/23/51. ("The Christmas Spirit of 1951 : Joe Fix")
605. 12/30/51. ("The New Year's Spirit of 1951/52 : Joshua Blows His Horn")
606. 1/6/52. "The History of Fabian Skimp/An Obituary"
607. 1/13/52. (The End of Planet Earth) FH 4/2 "Design for Doomsday" (C)
608. 1/20/52. (A Witness to Murder)
609. 1/27/52. ("Captain Isotope") FH 2/1 "The Amazing Affair of the First Man on Mars" (C)
610. 2/3/52. ("P.T. Nero") FH 3/4 "A Man Named Nero" (C)
611. 2/10/52. (The "Snow Fort" Mystery)
612. 2/17/52. ("Leap Year")
613. 2/24/52. (Drama in Darkness) FH 3/2 "It Kills By Dark" (C)
614. 3/2/52. "The Miami Beach Rumble"
615. 3/9/52. (The Syndicate Strikes Again) [This is a partial refry of 471 — or a continuation of it, perhaps — or an alternative version of it] FH 3/1 "The Walking Corpse" (C)
616. 3/16/52. ("Refried Dolan Walks A Beat") [This is a refried version of 464]
617. 3/23/52. (Staple Springs)
618. 3/30/52. ("Refried Water") [This is a refried version of 514]
619. 4/6/52. ("Refried Links Robbery") [This is a refried version of 520]
620. 4/13/52. ("Refried Ellen Dolan for Mayor") [This is not so much a refry as a flashback to 546]
621. 4/20/52. ("Humbolt Weepy") FH 4/4 "The Great Galactic Mystery" (C)
622. 4/27/52. ("A Different Face")
623. 5/4/52. "L'Spirit"
624. 5/11/52. "The Incident of the Sitting Duck"
625. 5/18/52. ("Assassins Incorporated")
626. 5/25/52. ("Assassins Incorporated, Part 2")
627. 6/1/52. (Sammy Falls In Love)
628. 6/8/52. "What Are You Really Like?"
629. 6/15/52. ("500 Papers")
630. 6/22/52. ("The Golden Lily")
631. 6/29/52. ("Rube Potter") [This contains the first "Moon Report" on page 7]
632. 7/6/52. "The Ballad of Greenly Sleeve"
633. 7/13/52. ("Matt Slugg") [Second "Moon Report" on page 7]
634. 7/20/52. ("Marry The Spirit") [This is the last true "Spirit" story. It also contains the third "Moon Report" on page 7]

Sections 635 through 645 [Outer Space]: Scripts by Jules Feiffer and Will Eisner. Art by Wallace Wood, Will Eisner and Al Wenzel. Lettering by Sam Schwartz, Ben Oda or ? . Colouring by Wallace Wood and/or Chris Christiansen and/or other staff artist.

635. 7/27/52. "Outer Space" K 20-48 "Outer Space (B&W Proof, wrongly dated as 8/3/52.)
636. 8/3/52. "Mission . . . The Moon" K 22-50 "Mission . . . The Moon" (B&W Proof)
637. 8/10/52. "A DP On The Moon" K 21-48 "A DP On The Moon" (B&W Proof)
638. 8/17/52. "Heat [On The Moon]" K 23-50 "Heat" (B&W Tones)

SECTIONS 639 THROUGH 645 — FOUR PAGE STORIES

639. 8/24/52. "Rescue [On The Moon]"
640. 8/31/52. "The Last Man"
641. 9/7/52. "The Man In The Moon"
642. 9/14/52. ("Refried Amulet of Osiris") [This is a refried version of 444. It was produced at the last minute when it became obvious that the story planned for that week would not be completed in time. In fact,

the story which should have been number 642 came in so late, it did not run until number 644, entirely out of continuity! Another planned piece, meant to run as Section 643, exists in the form of layouts and script, but was never penciled or inked. Instead, portions of it were hastily incorporated into the rush job which became Section 643, itself another fill-in.]

643. 9/21/52. ("The Spirit Back On Earth") [This fill-in was run when the art for Section 642, already one week late, didn't come in. It should be read AFTER the late story, which was printed as number 644. See notes to 642 — the plot of this Section was meant to run for two episodes, but was squeezed into one at the last moment.]
644. 9/28/52. "Return From The Moon" [See notes to 642 and 643. Read this story BEFORE number 643.]
645. 10/5/52. ("Denny Colt, UFO Investigator") [This is the last story printed. Scripted layouts (with the lettering already inked) exist for one more Section and there are typescripts for two more beyond that. This "UFO" series, beginning where the "Outer Space" series left off, had tight continuity, hence the last story printed is a cliff-hanger, proving that the decision to terminate the series was an abrupt one.]

CHRONOLOGICAL GUIDE TO (MOST OF) THE SPIRIT REPRINTS

- POLICE COMICS (QUALITY):** Ran one Spirit story per issue in nos. 11 through 102 (except nos. 89, 91 and 93). All in four colour, but colouring very crude and black lines usually plugged in. 1942-1950.
THE SPIRIT (QUALITY): Ran 22 issues, 3-6 stories per issue, plus short humour strips (Flatfoot Burns, Jonesy) and Spirit text stories. All four colour, usually good reproduction. 1944-1950.
SPIRIT MAN: Two issues (?) (first one has not been found) of regular newspaper sections bound into a new cover. No indicia. Circa 1944.
THREE COMICS MAGAZINE (QUALITY): Said to have run 4 issues, all consisting of rebound sections similar to Spiritman. I have not seen any of them . . . yet. Circa 1944.
MODERN COMICS (QUALITY): One Spirit reprint in issue 102. Four colour. 1950.
THE SPIRIT (FICTION HOUSE): Ran 5 issues, 4 stories in each. All four colour, good reproduction. 1952-1954.
THE SPIRIT (IW/SUPER): Identical to Quality Spirit 17 and 19 with new covers. Printed from same plates. 1963-1964.
PLASTIC MAN (IW/SUPER): Identical to Police Comics 95 with new covers. Printed from same plates. 1964.
THE SPIRIT (HARVEY): 2 issues of reprints, plus one new story in each. Four colour. 1966-1967.
THE SPIRIT BAGS: 4 sets of 10 stories each, unbound in a plastic bag. B&W halftones of original sections, with some later ones shot from proofs. Reproduction fair. The set was meant to be chronological, but one story was skipped [See Bootleg Bag]. 1972-1973.
THE SPIRIT (KITCHEN "UNDERGROUND"): 2 issues, B&W, 4 stories plus 4 new pages in each. 1973.
COMIC MEDIA: Ran one B&W Spirit story each in issues 10 & 11. 1973.
EERIE (WARREN): Ran full colour Spirit inserts in issues 54 & 55. 1974.
THE SPIRIT (WARREN): 16 issues, 8-10 stories in each. B&W, art often retouched. Issues 1-10 each had a full colour insert. Issue 10 also had two blue/black duotone stories. Warren Spirit Special consisted of 10 rebound colour inserts from The Spirit and Eerie. 1974-1977.
THE SPIRIT (KITCHEN SINK): No. 17-present. 5-7 B&W reprint stories per issue, plus new work by Eisner, occasional Lady Luck and Clifford reprints, text features, etc. 1977-present.
BOOTLEG BAG: B&W halftone of the story missing from the Spirit Bag set, identical to the others in size. Given away free (and illegally) by anonymous printers. 1979.

Author's Note: For the inspiration that precipitated this piece, I am indebted to Milton Wessel, author of "Society and Conscience" (published by Columbia University Press, New York). This very fundamental social problem is discussed along with other substantial questions of our time by the author in a most readable style.

THE PUBLIC INTEREST

By Will Eisner





FORGET IT!!! IF I GO BROKE A LOT OF STOCKHOLDERS LOSE THEIR SAVINGS... NO JOBS, NO TAXES... IS THAT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ?? IS IT SOCIALLY MORAL?

HMMM, WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE GEORGE! ... WE NEED 'DOERS' IN OUR SOCIETY

Ahh?



HOW ABOUT WE SUBSIDIZE GEORGE... HE, THUS, CAN PRODUCE WITHOUT POLLUTING... AND DOESN'T GO BROKE

USING PUBLIC MONEY LIKE THAT IS SOCIALISM

SO WHAT!? ... BY THE WAY SINCE IT IS THE PUBLIC'S MONEY, THEY SHOULD BE IN CONTROL... FIRE GEORGE

RIGHT! PUT IN A BUREAUCRAT ... HE'LL RUN IT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



WELL, NOW WE'VE GOT CLEAN AIR

BUT, OUR LIVING STANDARD IS DRIPPING!

Well, we're not going to make that mistake on this side of the world - we'll increase production and promote trade with cheap POWER

Y'r right, George! We start our own NUCLEAR plant ... speed growth, product and increased standard of living ... now that's in the public interest, right?



HEY, BUREAUCRAT OL' BOY... YOU'VE GOTTA INCREASE PRODUCTION! - GET MORE INVENTIVE PRODUCTS TOO!

OKAY GIVE ME MORE MACHINES!

MACHINES ALONE WON'T DO IT... BE A BIT MORE IMAGINATIVE AND EFFICIENT - FIRE A FEW 'DEADHEADS'!

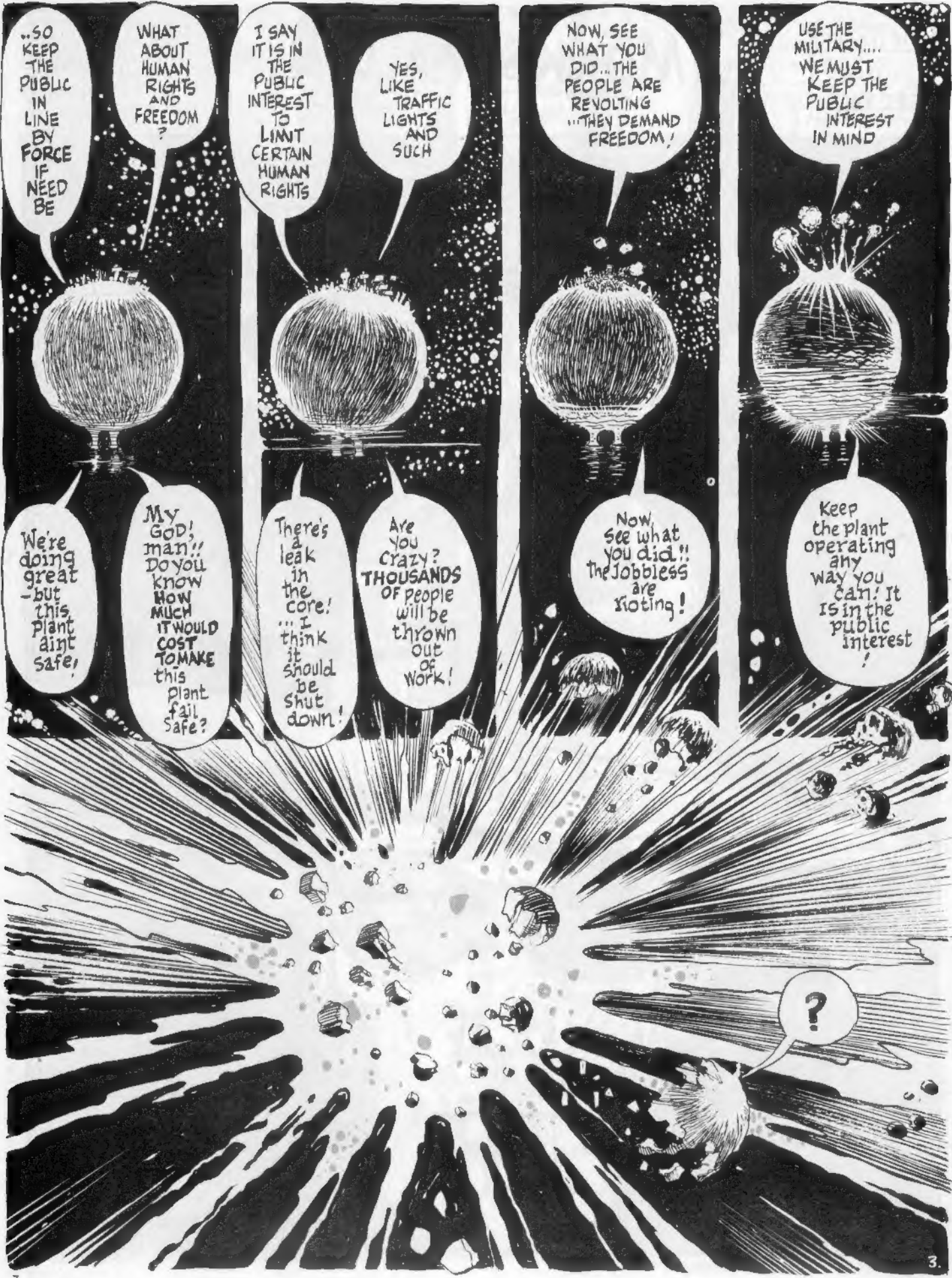


ARE YOU NUTS?! ... WHY SHOULD I MAKE ENEMIES - OR NEW PRODUCTS THAT MAY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL ?? WHY TAKE A RISK? ... THERE'S ONLY PUNISHMENT FOR FAILURE AND VERY LITTLE REWARD FOR INITIATIVE IN GOVERNMENT!

BESIDES, IF I REDUCE THE SIZE OF MY STAFF I REDUCE MY OWN STATUS - AND DOWN GOES MY POWER AND SALARY - AND ANOTHER THING, I MUST BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO MISINTERPRET ADMINISTRATION POLICY WHICH MEANS... NO INITIATIVE WITHOUT A WRITTEN APPROVAL WHICH IS PRETTY HARD TO GET! A POLITICAL REALITY THE PUBLIC MUST ACCEPT!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE PUBLIC IS UNHAPPY WITH ITS STANDARD OF LIVING!?

THEY'LL REBEL !!



..SO
KEEP
THE
PUBLIC
IN
LINE
BY
FORCE
IF
NEED
BE

WHAT
ABOUT
HUMAN
RIGHTS
AND
FREEDOM
?

I SAY
IT IS IN
THE
PUBLIC
INTEREST
TO
LIMIT
CERTAIN
HUMAN
RIGHTS

YES,
LIKE
TRAFFIC
LIGHTS
AND
SUCH

NOW, SEE
WHAT YOU
DID...THE
PEOPLE ARE
REVOLTING
...THEY DEMAND
FREEDOM!

USE THE
MILITARY...
WE MUST
KEEP THE
PUBLIC
INTEREST
IN MIND

We're
doing
great
-but
this
plant
ain't
safe!

My
God!
man!!
Do you
know
HOW
MUCH
IT WOULD
COST
TO MAKE
this
plant
fail
Safe?

There's
a
leak
in
the
core!
... I
think
it
should
be
shut
down!

Are
you
crazy?
THOUSANDS
OF people
will be
thrown
out
of
work!

Now,
see what
you did!!
The Jobless
are
rioting!

Keep
the plant
operating
any
way you
can! It
is in the
public
interest!

?

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

THE CONFESSIONS OF
MONKS MALLON

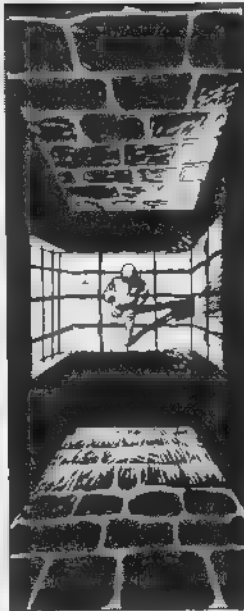
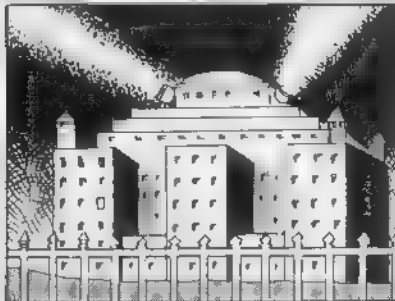
ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

OUT OF THE NIGHT, OUT OF THE GLOOM, COMES THE
SPIRIT, IN PURSUIT OF THOSE WHO SEEK TO ESCAPE
BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW... ONLY COMMISSIONER
DOLAN KNOWS THAT HE IS IN REALITY DENNY COLT,
LONG BELIEVED DEAD.....

the
Spirit
BY
WILL EISNER



IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY NEAR CENTRAL CITY... THE PRISON IS A GREY, SLEEPING HULK... ONLY ONE LIGHT CASTS AN EERIE GLEAM OUT INTO THE FOG... THE CELL OF A CONDEMNED MAN IN THE DEATH HOUSE



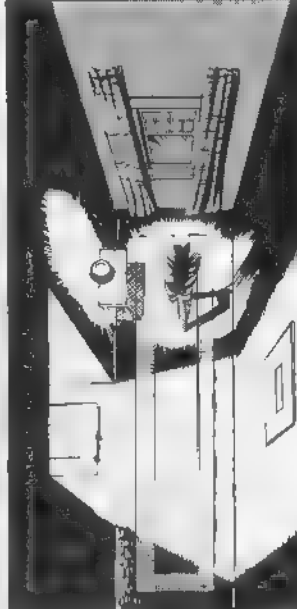
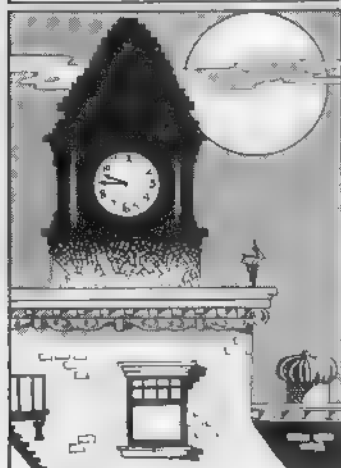
WHAT TIME IS IT, GUARD?

9:45



TWO HOURS AND FIFTEEN MINUTES TO LIVE!! @# !!**!

...AND DEEP IN CENTRAL CITY'S SLUMS, ANOTHER WINDOW IS LIT IN THE NIGHT....



H MM... 9:45... JUST TWO HOURS AND FIFTEEN MINUTES MORE AND LITTLE PETE GETS IT!



WHO'S THERE?

TAKE IT EASY, MONKS... IT'S US... I GOT A COUPLA BOYS WID ME!



TORONTO PHIL... DENVER SAM... WEEPY WILLIE... AND SOUP MCCANN... MEET D'BOSS, MONKS MALLON!

H'YA

'LO

UGH!

AAH HAAH!

HMM... I HOPE YOU GUYS ARE AS TOUGH AS Y'R SUPPOSED TO BE, BECAUSE THE GUY Y'R GONNA RUB OUT IS THE SPIRIT!!



THE SPIRIT!!
WOW!!

SPIRIT, EH??
THEN Y'GOTTA
PAY ME
MORE!

SPIRIT??
SPIRIT??
WHO'S
HE?

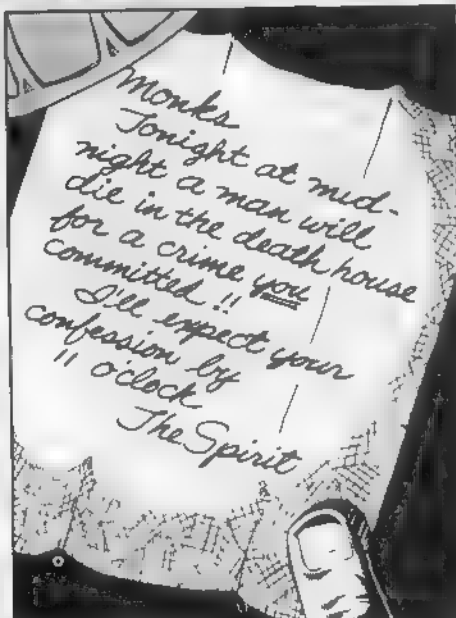
'SMATTER WIT'
YOUSE, TORONTO?
AIN'T YOU GOT
NO EDUCATION?

THE SPIRIT, TORONTO, IS
A SORT OF AN OUTLAW...
YET HE AIN'T A CROOK
LIKE WE ARE! MONEY
DON'T MEAN NOTHIN'
TO HIM... STILL HE AIN'T
NO COP! WHERE HE
COMES FROM OR WHO
HE IS, NO ONE KNOWS...
BUT WHEN HE TAKES A
NOTION TO HELP THE
COPS, IT'S CURTAINS
FOR US!!

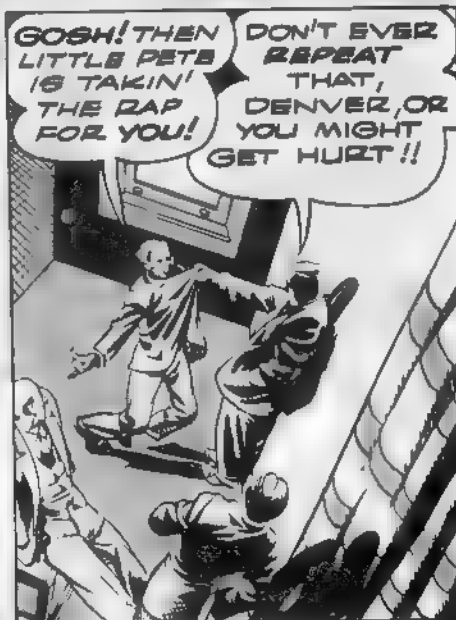


BUT WHY DO
WE GOTTA
COOL HIM
OFF...

BECAUSE
NOW HE'S
WORKIN'
ON ME!!
HERE...
READ DIS!



Monks
Tonight at mid-
night a man will
die in the death house
for a crime you
committed!!
I'll expect your
confession by
11 o'clock
The Spirit



GOSH! THEN
LITTLE PETS
IS TAKIN'
THE RAP
FOR YOU!

DON'T EVER
REPEAT
THAT,
DENVER, OR
YOU MIGHT
GET HURT!!



O.K....
O.K., BUT
IF YOU
AGT
ME...

I'M NOT!! WE'RE
GONNA USE
DIS NOTE TO
TRAP THE
SPIRIT.... HE'S
GONNA COME
HERE FER ME
IN AN HOUR!!



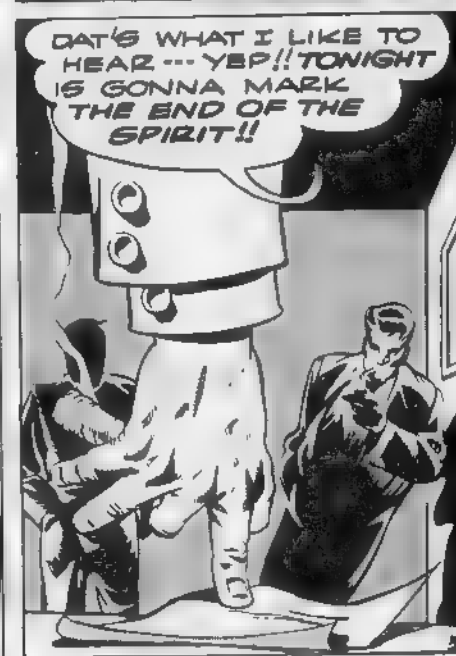
NOW...
ANYBODY
SCARED...
OR WANNA
BACK
OUT?

NOPE!

NUH..

NO!

UH
HUH!



THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO
HEAR... YEP!! TONIGHT
IS GONNA MARK
THE END OF THE
SPIRIT!!

MEANWHILE...IN THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER DOLAN, ELLEN, HIS DAUGHTER, PLEADS WITH HIM...

BUT, DADDY... CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THAT BOY? EVERYONE KNOWS HE'S INNOCENT!

THE TRIAL WAS FAIR! GOOD GLORY! DON'T YOU THINK I FEEL BAD ENOUGH? LEAVE ME ALONE!!



ON THE DEATH HOUSE...

WILL YOU SPEND THIS LAST HOUR WITH ME... MY SON...?

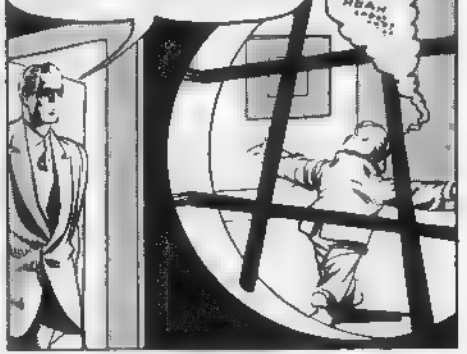
YES... YES FATHER, BUT I'M INNOCENT I TELL YOU!



AND IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY, THE SPIRIT'S SECRET HIDEAWAY...

FOR THE LAST TIME, EBONY... NO! YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME...IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!

AW...GEE WHIZ... GRUMBLE... AH JES'GIT PUSHED AROUND... NEVER LET ME DO NOthin' AROUND HERE!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...





THE SPIRIT!



ALL RIGHT, BOYS... WHERE'S THE BOSS?

TAKE IT EASY... H-HE'S HIDING OUT AT THE OLD BREWERY ON SOUTH STREET!



MEANWHILE AT COMMISSIONER DOLAN'S OFFICE....

CALL OUT D'RIOT SQUAD!! MAH MIST' SPIRIT DONE GONE AFTER MONKS MALLON BY HISSELF!!

WAIT A MINUTE, EBONY.. WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?



MIST' SPIRIT SAY DAT LITTLE PETE IS INNOCENT! MONKS MALLON DONE IT!!

YOU SEE, DADDY? YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO REASON! THE SPIRIT'S NEVER WRONG!



BUT HOW CAN I ACT ON THE SPIRIT'S SAY SO? TECHNICALLY HE'S AN OUTLAW! I CAN'T DO IT! FACTS ARE FACTS!!

OH, DADDY! YOU'RE AN OLD DIE-HARD!



MEANWHILE, AT THE BREWERY, BLACK SILENCE GREET'S THE SPIRIT....

AH! THAT MUST BE MONKS!



ALL RIGHT, MONKS, I CAME TO GET YOU-- WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME... SO---



OH-- WON'T TALK, EH? IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT----



HAW HAW! HE FELL FOR IT!

A DUMMY!! WELL, WELL... BROTHER-- YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ON ME!





ALL RIGHT, BOYS--HE'S TRAPPED! LET 'IM HAVE IT!!

A RECEPTION COMMITTEE.. WELL NOW...

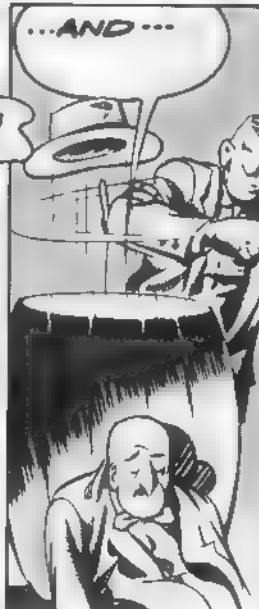


O.K., BOYS...SPREAD OUT... SOMEWHERE IN THIS JOINT IS THE SPIRIT!! HE NEVER CARRIES NO GUN AND WE GOT TOMMY GUNS...HE AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!!



WELL NOW.. IF IT ISN'T WILLIE...

GHU GH!



...AND...



O.K., MONKS! YOU'D BETTER SURRENDER, OR....



OR WHAT? HAHAHA



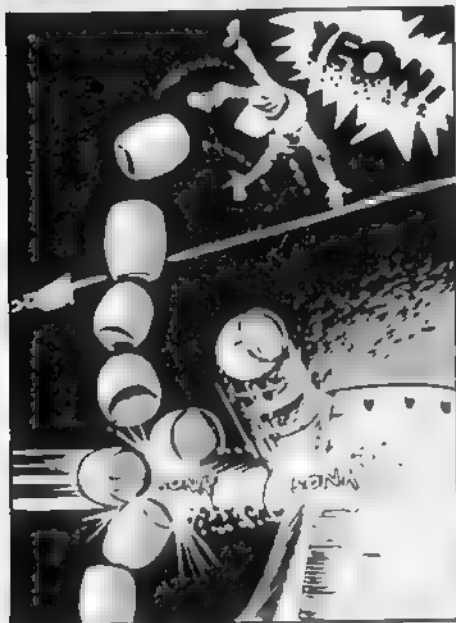
NOW WAS THAT NICE--? I ASK YOU!

@*!!#! LETSGO!



OHH--WHAT HIT ME... AHH... A ROD!!





NO--NO!
NOT YET,
LITTLE
MAN!



YEAH--I KNOW!
YOU'LL MAKE ME
LOOK LIKE MONDAY'S
WASH!!



YEEOW!
WE'RE
GOIN'
OVER...
LEGGO!!



AND NOW,
MR. MONKS
MALLON,
WE'RE GOING
TO STOP AN
EXECUTION,
AREN'T
WE?

YES!
YES!
DON'T
HIT
ME! I'LL
TALK!!

MEANWHILE, AT DOLAN'S OFFICE...

DADDY... PLEASE MAKE JUST ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO SAVE THAT BOY!! PLEASE!

BUT IT'S 11:45!! I WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!

MIS... GASP... MISTER DOLAN... GASP... I... I WISH TO CONFESS!!

LITTLE PETE IS INNOCENT!! I'M GUILTY!!

MONKS... THAT'S MIGHTY WHITE OF YOU---- BREAKING YOUR NECK TO GET HERE IN TIME TO SAVE PETE ---- I'LL PERSONALLY RECOMMEND LENIENCY FOR YOU!!

HELLO, OPERATOR... GIVE ME THE WARDEN! IT'S LIFE OR DEATH! HURRY, MAN!!

AND... AS THE CLOCK OVER CITY HALL CHIMES MID-NIGHT...

WHW.. MADE IT!! THEY STOPPED THE EXECUTION!!

BOOG BOOG

THE SPIRIT! SAAAY!! DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS?

WHO?? ME? WHY DOLAN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!

FUNNY... I NEVER THOUGHT MONKS WOULD CONFESS!! GUESS I'M LOSING MY SENSE OF JUDGEMENT!!

BR... ANEM... WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME THAT WAY, ELLEN?

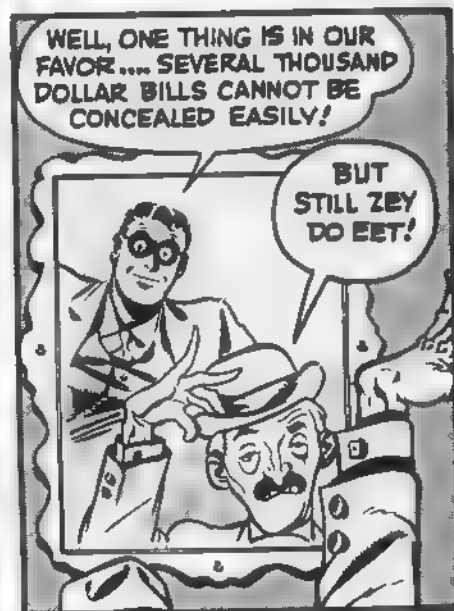
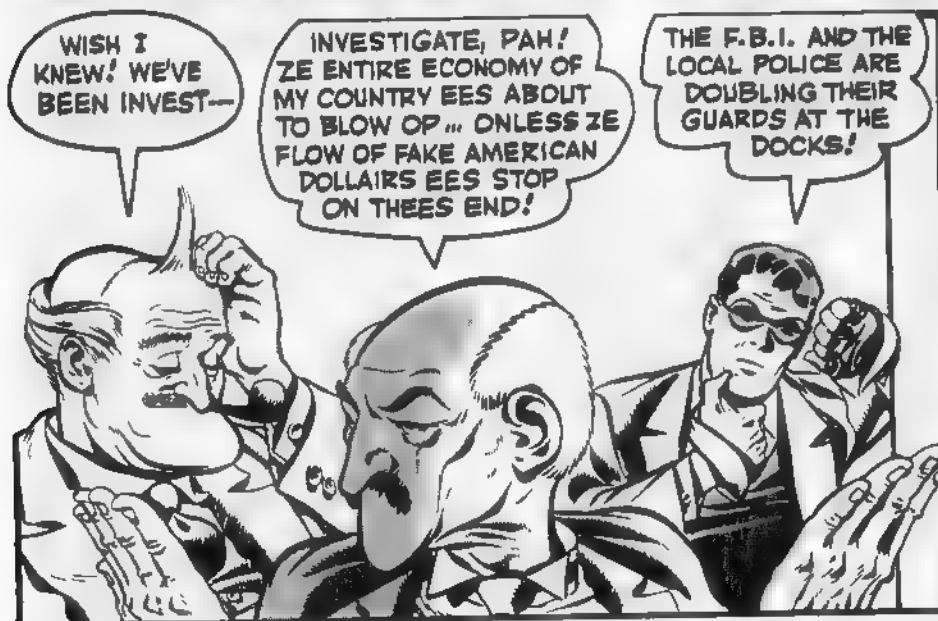
SPIRIT... YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL LIAR!!

Nylon Rose

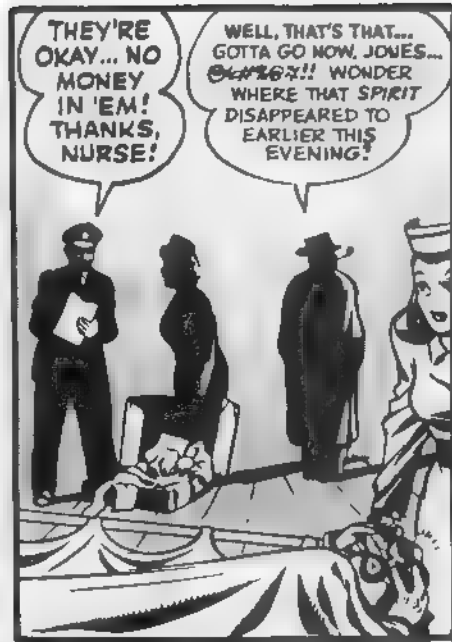


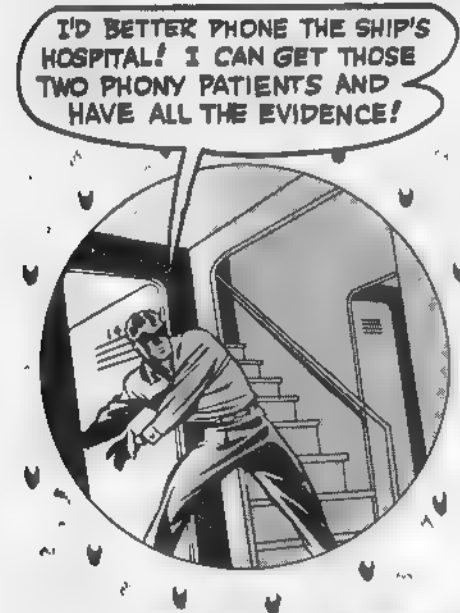
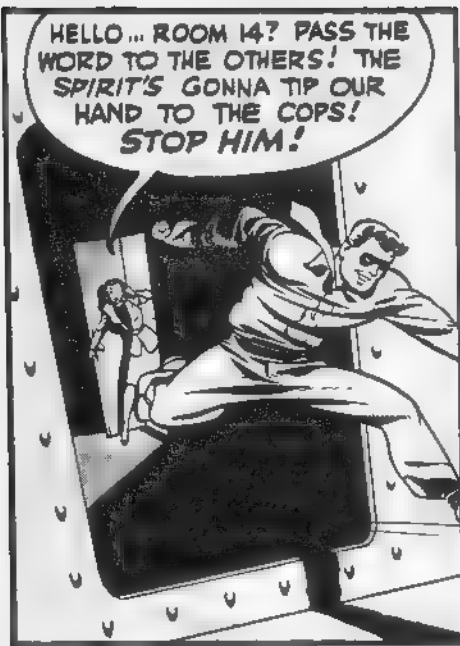
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MARCH 17, 1946

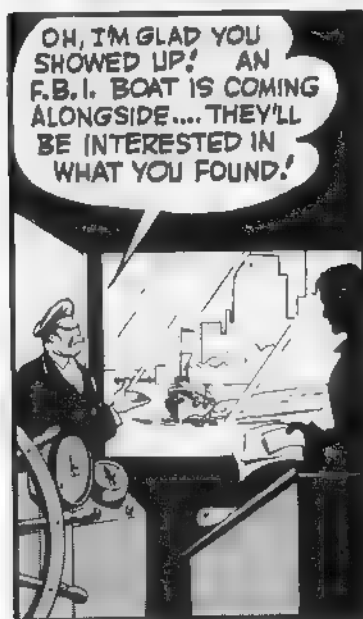




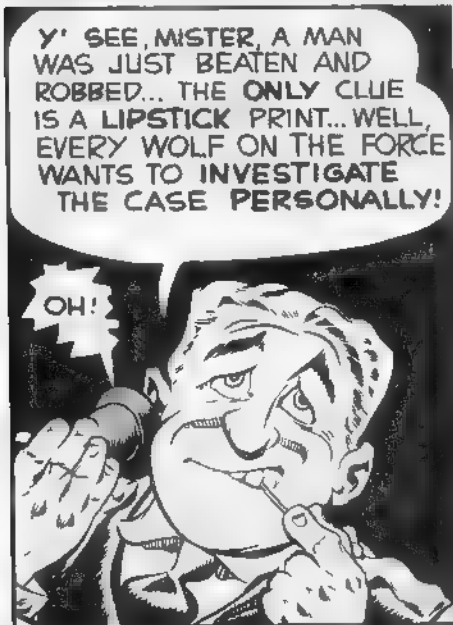


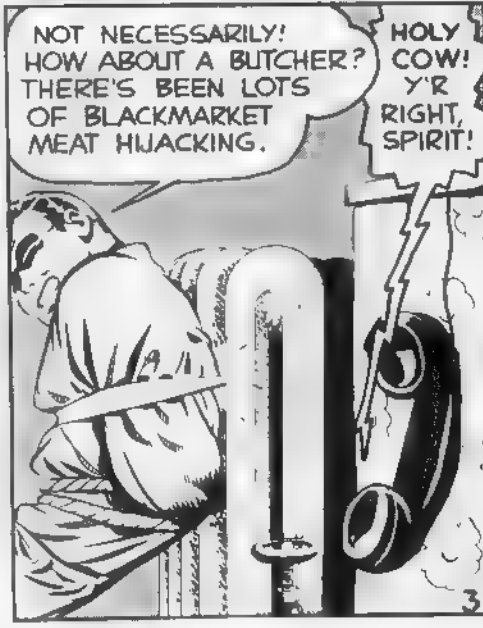
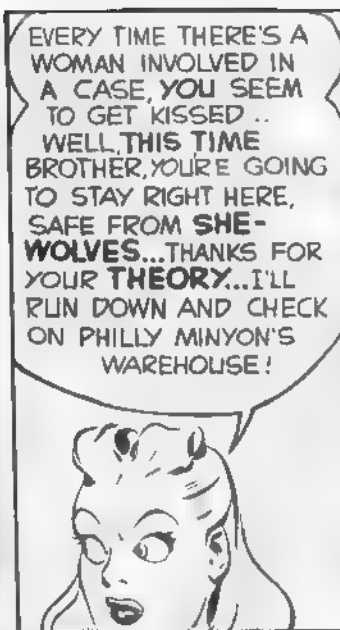












MEANWHILE...

WELL, AND I'M
OL' LADY GRUNTCH'S
ONEY SON... HERE'S
PHILLY!

YOU THERE!! WHERE IS
PHILLY MINYON... I'M
COMMISSIONER DOLAN'S
DAUGHTER!

WE GOT A LADY
SNOOPER



SHAME ON YOU CROOKS...
STEALING MEATS... LUCKY
I CAUGHT YOU! WHY, I'LL
BET YOU'RE THE
BLACKMARKETEERS THE
PAPERS REPORTED
ABOUT!!

SAVE IT, BABE! WE
AIN'T GOT TIME FOR
FOOLIN'... WE
ALREADY BOPPED
ONE GUY, T'NIGHT
AND WE AIN'T SHY
ABOUT SLUGGIN' YOU!



GO AHEAD! I
JUST DARE
YOU!



DUMP HER IN THE TRUCK WE
HIJACKED... AND LET'S BEAT IT,
WE GOT ENOUGH STUFF!

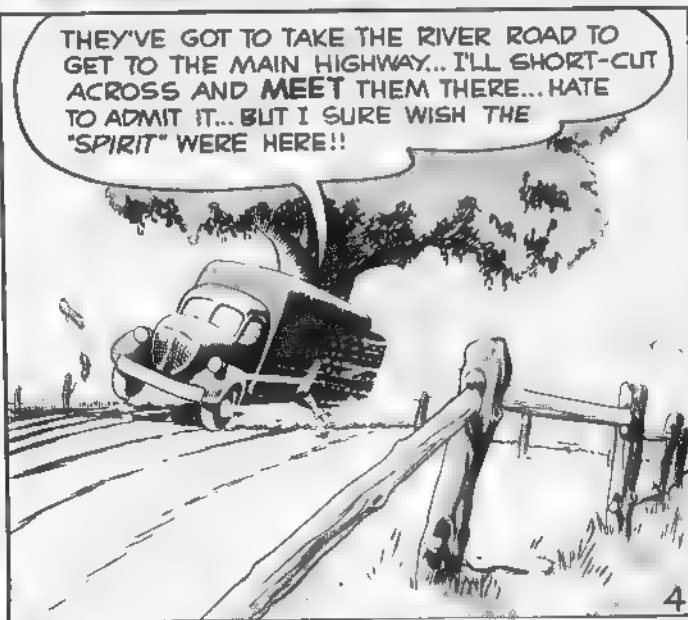


...a few minutes later...

OOOH, THE BEASTS!
I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP...
WONDER IF THIS TRUCKS
RUNS...



THEY'VE GOT TO TAKE THE RIVER ROAD TO
GET TO THE MAIN HIGHWAY... I'LL SHORT-CUT
ACROSS AND MEET THEM THERE... HATE
TO ADMIT IT... BUT I SURE WISH THE
"SPIRIT" WERE HERE!!



Meanwhile

HEY, SPIRIT, YOU STILL ON THE WIRE?
YOU WERE RIGHT, THE GUY IS A FEDERAL AGENT WORKING ON THE INTER-STATE MEAT STEALING... HE GOT SLUGGED JUST AS HE CAUGHT 'EM IN THE ACT... HE JUST CAME TO!

SWELL!

WELL, THANKS FOR HELPING... WE'LL MOP 'EM UP RIGHT NOW... OH, BY THE WAY, THE "FEDERAL" SAYS TO DO HIM A FAVOR...

SURE!

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET NYLON ROSE AT MY HOUSE... WHEN SHE SHOWS UP SEND HER RIGHT DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS, SHE'S ASSIGNED TO THIS CASE, TOO... S'LONG F'R NOW.

NYLON ROSE? HOLY SMOKE...NOT HER!!

NOW I'VE GOT TO GET FREE...I'VE JUST GOT TO!

HELLO, HELLO, HELLO, IS ANYONE AT HOME?? THIS IS NYLON ROSE!!

TO LATE, THIS IS THE END!

WELL! THE SPIRIT! SNORT...HUBBA HUBBA!

NOW LOOK HERE, NYLON, YOU'RE WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS RIGHT AWAY...IT'S URGENT POLICE WORK...

AND SO HELPLESS TOO! OH, YOU SOLID HUNK OF MAN!!

HAVEN'T YOU GOT ANY PATRIOTISM, YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU! ISN'T THERE A SENSE OF DUTY IN YOUR SOUL...

MMMMMM! DON'T STRUGGLE, DARLING...IT'S INEVITABLE, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL LEAN BACK AND ENJOY IT!

MEANWHILE...on a lonely road off the main highway...

HEY, WHAT'S A
IDEA KISSIN'
ME GOIL,
OFFICER?

AW, DON'T
GET HUFFY...
I'M ON AN
IMPORTANT
CASE.. GOTTA
TEST EVIDENCE!
YUM YUM...



HEY!! STOP!!
PULL OVER TO
THE SIDE OF
THE ROAD!

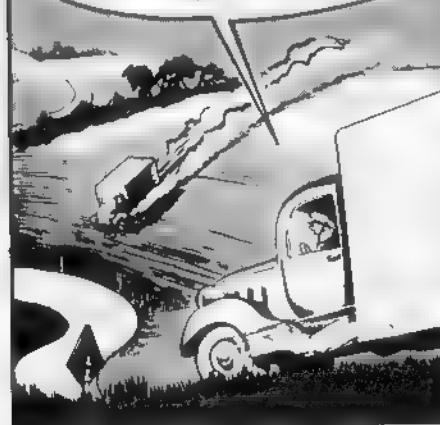


MISS DOLAN, OH STOP PLAYING
GEE...I THOUGHT, COPS AND
ROBBERS,
GILLIGAN... GET IN!
I'M CHASING THE
"MEAT" GANG!

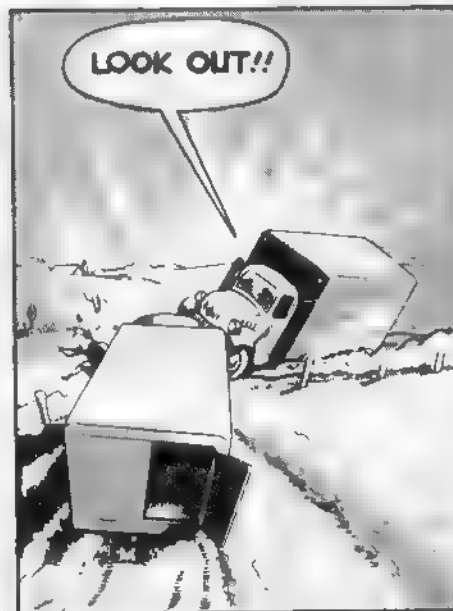


...but down the road a piece

HEY... BOSS, DAT DAME HAS
OUTFLANKED US... SHE'S
HEADIN' FER THE ROAD
AHEAD!



LOOK OUT!!



DON'T REACH F'R
YA' GUN, BULL...
I'M WARNING YA'...



EVERYONE'S OUT COLD...
WELL..AIN'T NO REASON
FOR ME TO HANG AROUND
... S'LONG COPPER!



GOOD GIRL,
ELLEN!!



HEY, LOOK!!
THE LIPSTICK PRINT
IDENTICAL WITH
THE CLUE!!

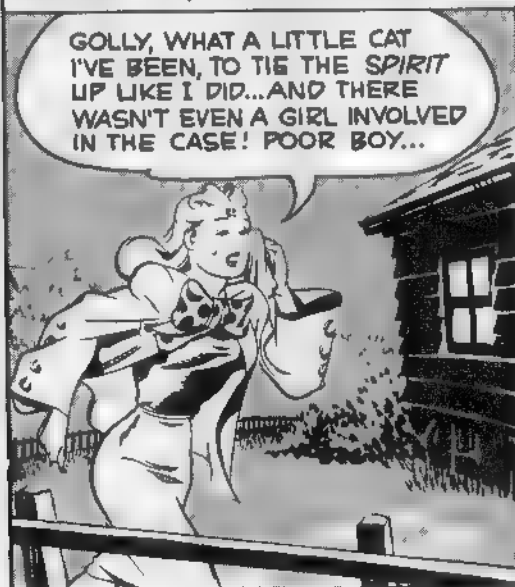
GOSH!



LATER...in fact considerably later at Police Headquarters...



LATER... oh, about 20 minutes or so



...long into the night



UMBRELLAS!



THE SPIRIT

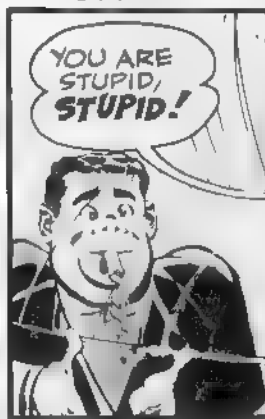
by Will Eisner



ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED DECEMBER 28, 1947



MEANWHILE... LET US LOOK IN UPON TWO PARTNERS IN CRIME, WHO PAUSE IN THE DAILY STRUGGLE TO MAKE A BUCK...



NAAAA... THEY WERE SO GLAD TO GET R.I.D OF THEM UMBRELLAS THAT THEY GIMME THE STUFF ON THE FOIST BID!



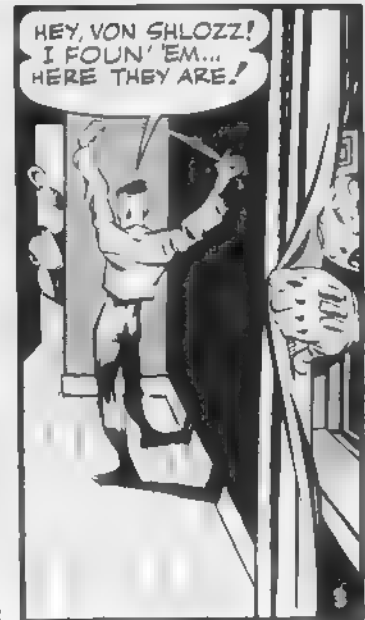
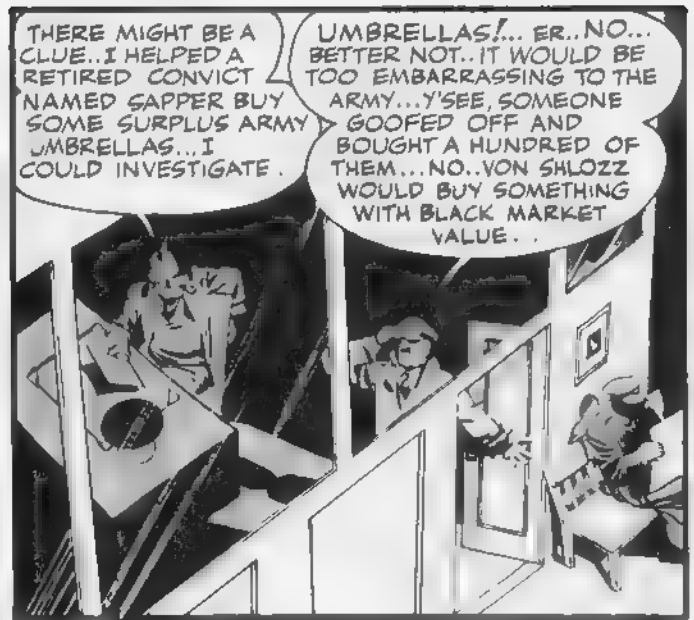
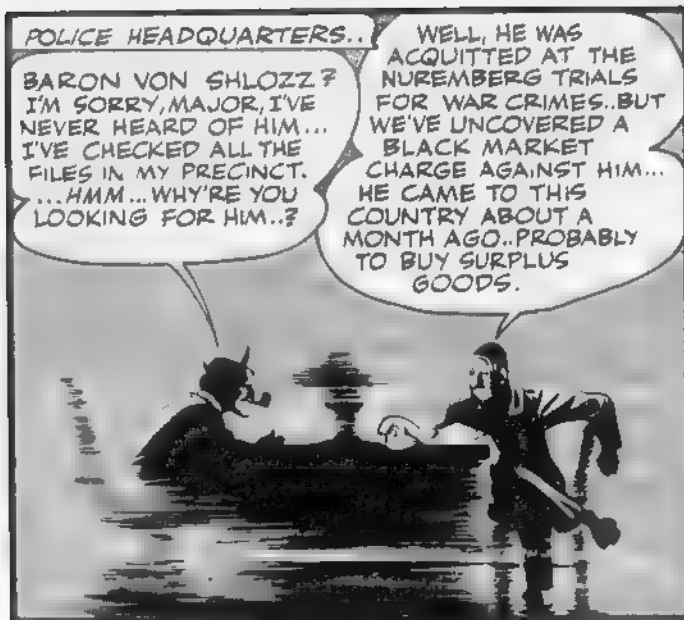
FINE! NOW YOU CAN START REMOVING THE HANDLES OF ALL THESE UMBRELLAS...

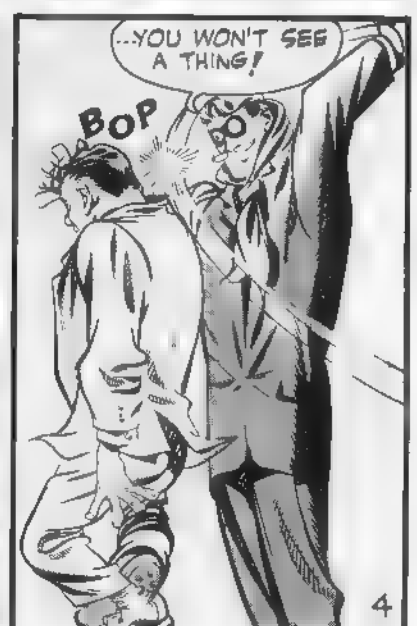
THAT WAS SURE CLEVER, HIDING THEM JOOLS IN THE HANDLES OF U S ARMY UMBRELLAS!

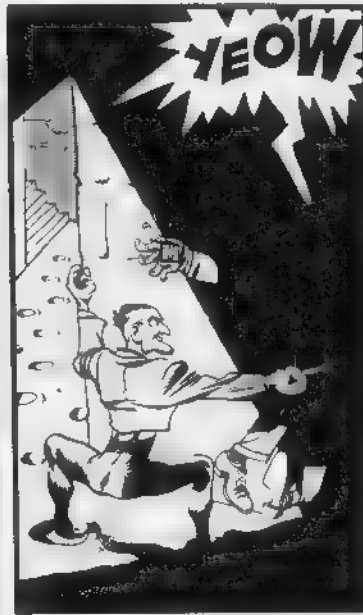


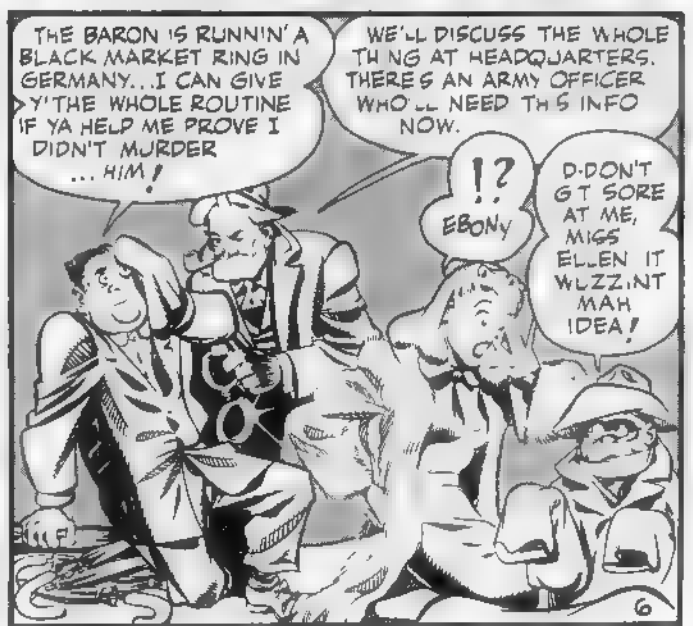
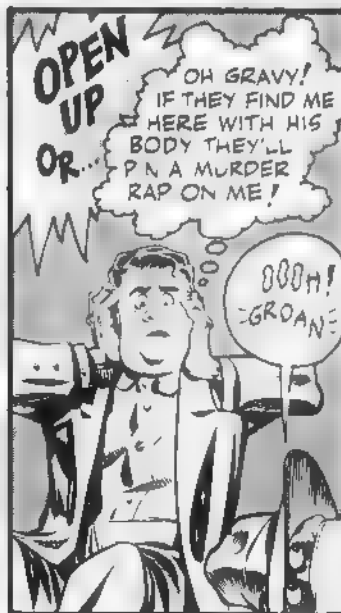
BACK AT POLICE HEAD QUARTERS. IN THE EMERGENCY WARD...

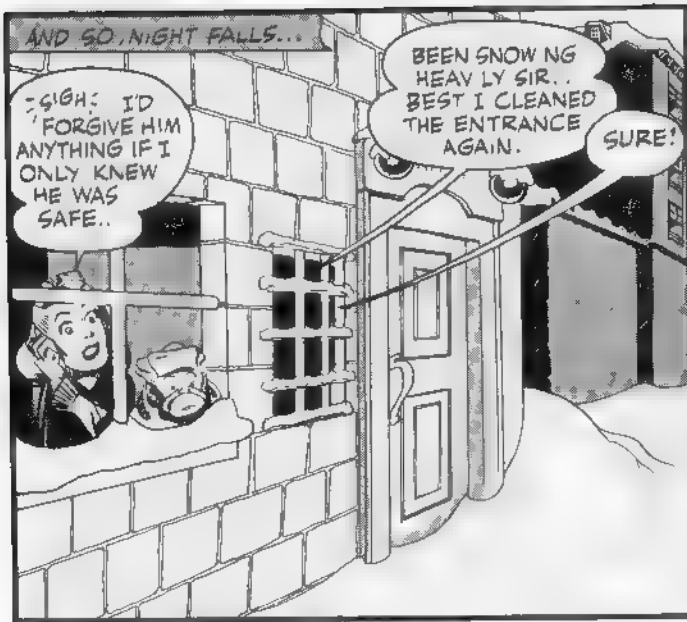












THE LAST CHAPTER

NOTES FOR A MONOGRAPH ENTITLED INTELLIGENT LIFE ON ANOTHER PLANET

By James Bludd

*It is now six months since the
election of Lester Milgate*

ITEM: George Macready, Chairman
of Multinational has been
appointed special advisor to
President Milgate. Appoleon
is chief of the White House staff.

ITEM: The launch in Sidiami has been
delayed to give the U.S. a chance
to consolidate its own control
and identification with this probe.
It is now viewed as a U.S. undertaking.

ITEM: The Soviet protests in the U.N. go
unheeded.



LOOK HERE
APPOLEON.
OUR PEOPLE ARE
GETTING ITCHY.
WE WENT THRU
A LOTTA ER
TROUBLE
GETTING
MILGATE IN!
IF HE DOES
SID AMI OUR
LARGEST
SINGLE SOURCE
OF STUFF LL
DRY UP..
WERE
TALKIN'
ABOUT A
400 MILLION
BUCK
STREET
VALUE
PER YEAR.

...WE'LL SPLINT' YOU'RE
THE PARTY WHIP... CAN YOU
GET CONGRESS TO SUPPORT
MILGATE IF HE MOVES
ON SIDIAM I ?

NOW, YOU
KNOW I'VE BEEN
WORKING ON IT. ITS
VERY TRICKY, BEST TO
DO IT NOW. ALWAYS
EASIER FOR THE
PRES.DENT TO TAKE
A STRONG ACT.ON
WH LEHES NEW IN
OFFICE ..TELL HIM OKAY!
... WHY NOT 'GOOSE'
HIM A LITTLE!

DONT WORRY
MARIO I'M
PUSHIN' IT... BUT
THIS IS WASHINGTON
NOT 'VEGAS'!

OVERSEAS
CALL... ON THE
'RED' SECURE
PHONE, SIR

AN
EXCUSE
ME...

DELAY DELAY
DELAY... MACREADY
I'VE BEEN HOLDING UP
YOUR LAUNCH FOR SIX
MONTHS NOW... I MUST
GET IT OFF... AND I NEED
U.S. TROOPS NOW... IF I
DON'T, I WON'T BE
HERE IN ANOTHER
MONTH... THE REBELS
ARE MOVING IN ON ME!

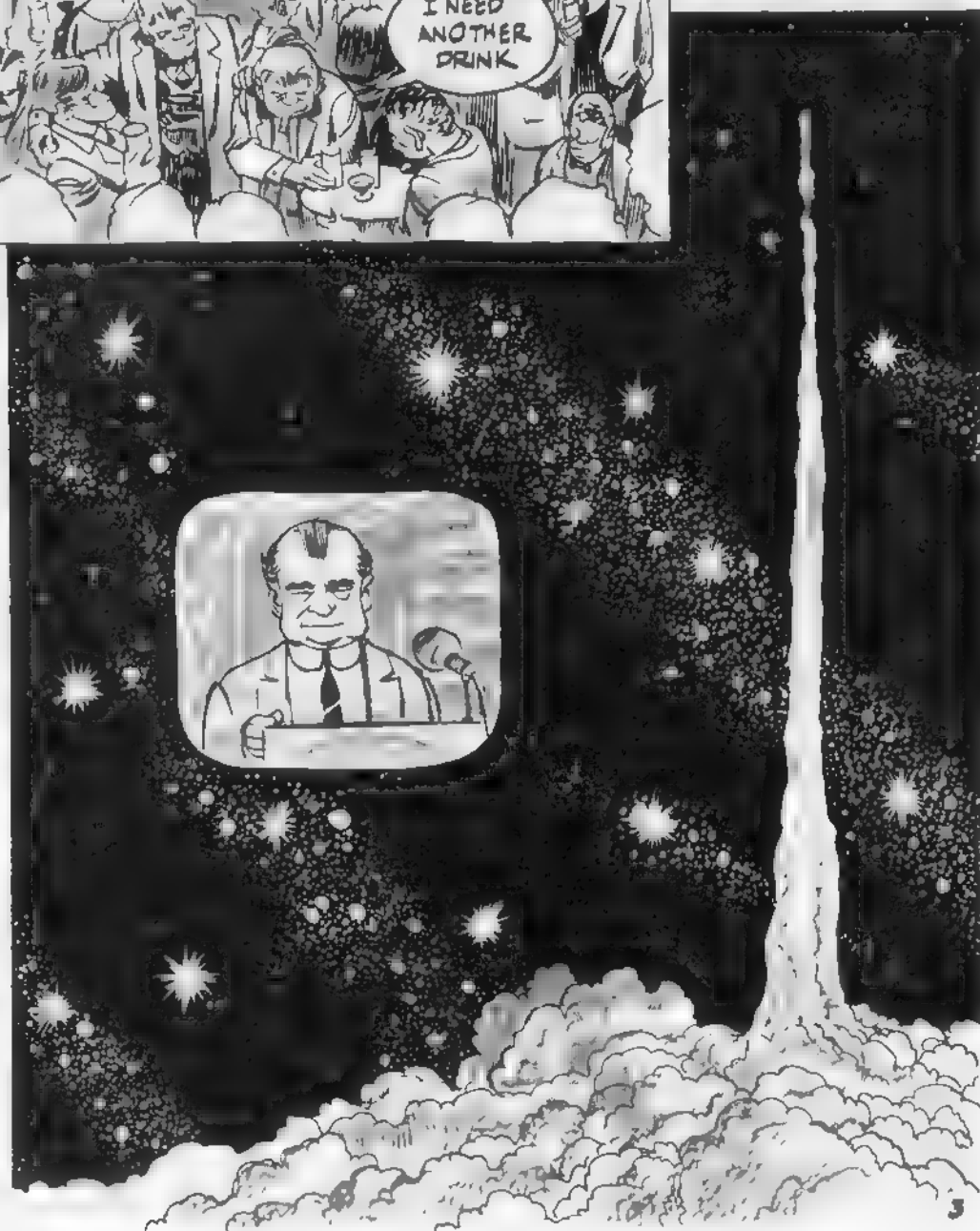
VERY
WELL
GENERAL
I'LL BE
BACK
TO YOU



YES SIR



TODAY... MY FELLOW AMERICANS, UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES, THE NATION OF SIDIAM I HAS LAUNCHED A SPACE PROBE TO THE PLANET BERNARD! IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR VITAL NATIONAL INTEREST I'VE ORDERED TWO AIRCRAFT CARRIERS INTO THE HARBOR AT SID I AND HAVE ASKED CONGRESS TO INCREASE OUR MILITARY AID TO THAT COUNTRY. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN AMERICAN PREEMINENCE IN SPACE



THIS IS SAM
GATHER IN SIDI, THE
CAPITAL OF SIDIAM
WHERE THE EARTH'S
FIRST SPACE LAUNCH
TO CONTACT AN
INTELLIGENT LIFE
ON ANOTHER
PLANET HAS
JUST TAKEN OFF!

THERE IS AN
EERIE CALM HERE,
EXCEPT FOR THE
PRESENCE OF U.S.
NAVAL VESSELS,
THERE IS NOTHING
TO INDICATE THAT
THIS WAS THE
'EVENT' OF OUR
CENTURY!

... BACK TO BGS
IN NEW YORK....
THE REACTION TO
THE 'EVENT' HERE
IS INCREDIBLE IN
THAT THERE IS
LITTLE OR NO
REACT ON... THE
PUBLIC SEEMS
UNCONCERNED!!
OH, THERE WAS A
MILD FLURRY OF
SPACE TECHNOLOGY
STOCKS ON WALL
STREET TODAY...



COMRADE
TOLKININ... EXCUSE
ME I HAVE A CODE
DISPATCH FROM
MOSCOW...

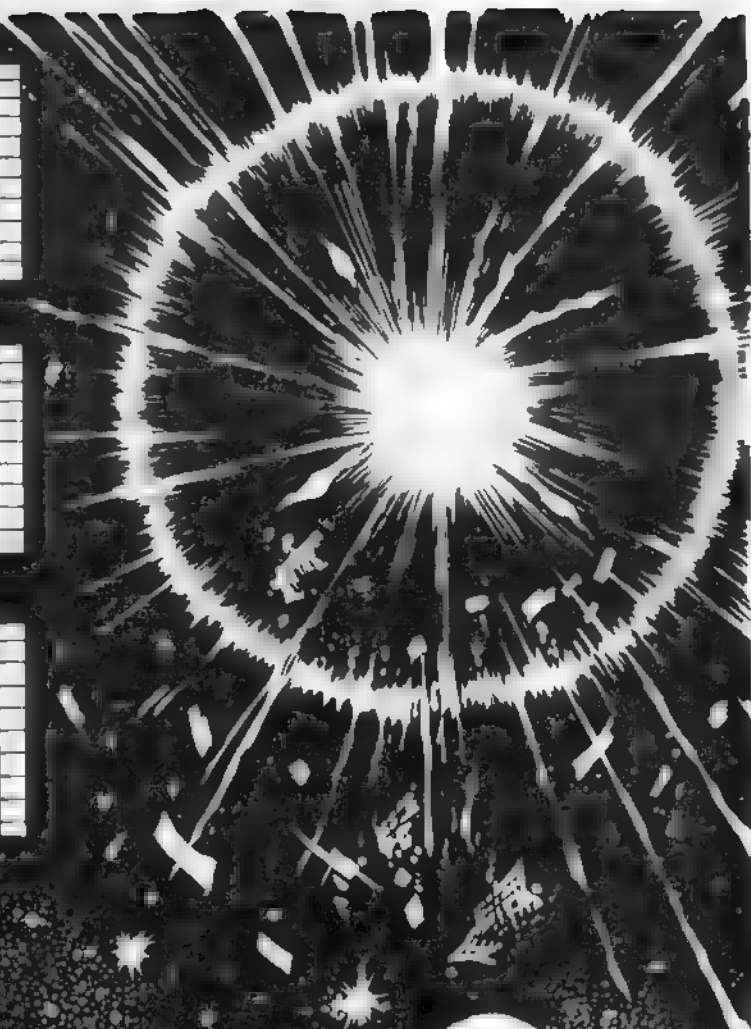
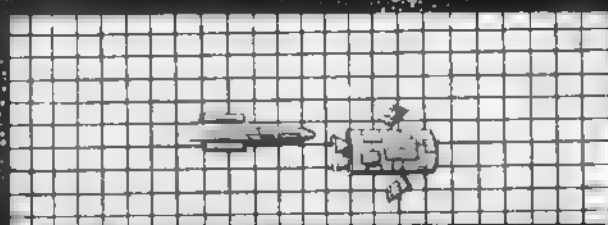
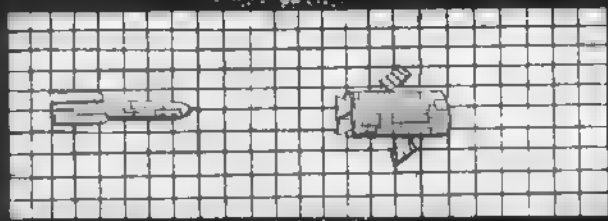
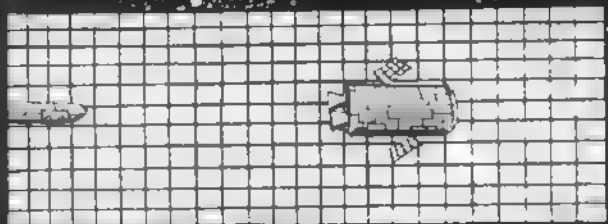


GET ME AN
APPOINTMENT
WITH THE PRESIDENT
I MUST TALK
TO NO ONE ELSE!



MR. PRESIDENT... THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR IS ASKING FOR AN
IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE ... HE SAYS
MOSCOW WANTS 'CLARIFICATION'
OF YOUR POSITION...

SCREW HIM!!
... OUR POSITION IS
... WE DON'T HAVE TO
DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH
THEM! THE LAUNCH IS UP...
P-E-R-I-O-D... TELL THEM TO
GET THEIR GODDAM CUBANS
OUT OF SIDIAM FIRST... THIS
IS A U.S. SHOW... IF THEY WANT
TO GO TOWAR OVER
THIS... FINE... I'M
READY... WHEN THE
GOING GETS TOUGH
THE TOUGH GET
GOING!!



HE'S IN
ROOM 4B
-FOURTH-
FLOOR SR



GOOD
WORK...
THANK
YOU



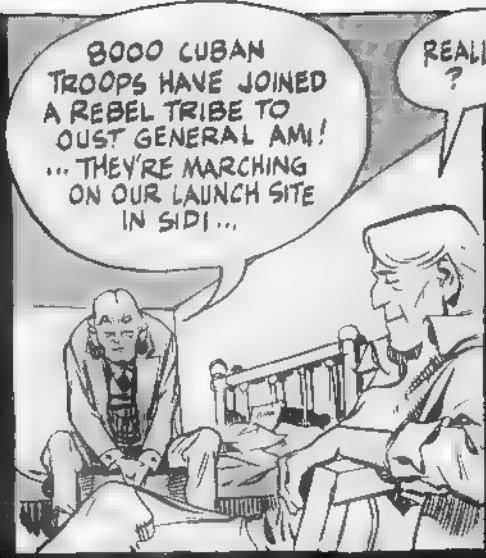
MACREADY!?
WHAT ON EARTH
DO YOU WANT
WITH ME??



WELL BLUDD...WE HAD
QUITE A TIME FINDING YOU!
... UNDERSTAND YOU'VE
BEEN GRIEVING OVER A LOSS
.. MISS NADIA, EH?...
... SORRY...



HA!! GREAT NEWS!



REALLY?



HERE

...TODAY, AT 5AM NEW YORK TIME CUBAN TROOPS, SUPPORTED BY ELEMENTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION HAVE OVERRUN OUR LAUNCH SITE IN SIDI... IN THIS ACTION 500 OF OUR MARINE FORCE THERE TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED...

...THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FOR AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE U.N. TO CONSIDER SUITABLE ACTION... IN LATER DEVELOPMENTS PRESIDENT MILGATE CALLING THIS A GRAVE NATIONAL CRISIS HAS ASKED FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO SEEK WAR-EMERGENCY POWERS...



NOT YET NOT YET



NOW WHAT?



WELL NOW...
THAT CLEANS THE
SLATE...WITH THE
SOVIET'S LAUNCH SITE
DESTROYED BY NADIA
AND THE U.S. SITE
KNOCKED-OUT IN
SIDI...WE HAVE
A STAND-OFF!

NOW THERE'LL BE
A FEW YEARS FOR BOTH
POWERS TO THINK IT OVER
...MAYBE A CHANCE FOR
SANER HEADS TO TAKE
OVER...FORM A
TRUE JOINT EFFORT!
I WIN, MACREADY!
... I WIN!!

NOT
AS
SIMPLE
AS
THAT,
BLUDD!

WE HAVE OUR
OWN LAUNCH CAPABILITIES
AT HOUSTON...WE'RE NOW
MAKING READY.. THERE
WILL BE A U.S. LAUNCH
ANYHOW!

THE
RUSSIANS
WILL
INTERCEPT
IT

NO,
THEY
WON'T.

MILGATE HAS
AUTHORIZED A
DESTRUCTION
IN SPACE OF
THEIR SOYEL
SPACE PLATFORM!

THAT LEAVES ONLY
ONE PROBLEM...HOUSTON
WILL NEED TO HAVE A
'PASSENGER' ABOARD!

YOU
MEAN
THE
'PLANT'
?

YES...Y'SEE DR HOAD
WAS KILLED IN THE SIDI
ACTION...THAT LEAVES
US YOU.. WE NEED
YOUR HELP!

I DON'T HAVE THE 'PLANT'... I GAVE IT AWAY!

THEN YOU MUST GET IT BACK!

YOU TOOK IT FROM SIDI... YOU KNOW WHO HAS IT... I MUST HAVE IT ON BOARD!

WELL WELL, SO THIS HAS TAKEN ON SOME KIND OF MEANING TO YOU... EH, MACREADY?!!

I DON'T NEED PSYCHOLOGY BLUDD... I NEED YOUR HELP!

HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT BLUDD? MONEY?? NAME IT!

I WANT A PERMANENT POST... SOMEWHERE... WHERE I'LL BE OUT OF THIS ROTTEN WORLD... GET ME A POSITION IN THE MT. HEAD SPACE OBSERVATORY... AS A MONITOR IN THE SPACE RADIO EMISSION LAB... I WANT TO BE UP THERE WHEN THIS WHOLE MESS YOU STARTED ERUPTS INTO AN ARMAGEDDON!

... DONE!!! YOU'VE GOT IT JUST GET ME THAT 'PLANT', BLUDD!

BELCH

DAILY GLOBE
U.S. LAUNCHING OWN STAR PROBE
DESTRUCTION OF SIDI IN
WILL NOT STOP U.S.
SAYS MILGATE



YOU GAVE HIM TO ME. JUST THINK MY POOR DEAD SISTER, CARLA'S HUSBAND... A.. A PLANT!? YOU KNEW THAT HIM AND ME... I LOVED HIM! SO YOU BROUGHT HIM TO ME.. TO ME ROSA THE OLD MAID...



ROCCO... ROCCO, ROCCO. WE ARE LIVING TOGETHER.. LIKE MAN AND WIFE. SO WHY WE DON'T ENJOY IT .. EH, EH, EH...?!



I JUST AINT INNERESTED!
YOU..YOU UNDERSTAND??
I CAN'T...I DON'T LIKE IT
WITH WIMMEN... SEE?!



I'M GONNA TELL
MY UNCLE DON
CANNELONI ON YOU
...HE'LL FIX YOU... YOU
GODDAM FAIRY...



HAW!! WHY THE HELL DO
YOU THINK I'M LIVIN' HERE?!
Y'R UNCLE OWES ME...HE SENT
ME HERE 'TILL THE HEATS OFF!
SO, HE AINT GONNA DO NOTHIN'
... BESIDES, I KNOW TOO MUCH!
NOW, SHADDAP!



OH VITO, VITO, VITO
...YOU ALL I GOT NOW
BABY...



AHH
JONESY.
YOU DEVIL
WHO IS TH'S
HMM HANDSOME
♪ ♪



IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT
HOWARD...LISTEN,
HE'S JIM BLUDD...
A- A SCIENTIST.
WE NEED YOUR
HELP!



WE'RE LOOKING
FOR A 'HIT' MAN...
ALL WE HAVE IS...
...HE LOOKS LIKE
THIS...AND HIS
NAME'S ROCCO.



REALLY...
THE ONLY TIME
I EVER SEE YOU
IS WHEN YOU
WANT A FAVOR
... THIS ISN'T
CONNECTED
WITH MY
FATHER...?
WHY
ME?



ALL THE CIA
HAS ON HIM IS -
HE FREQUENTS
GAY BARS...YOU'RE
INTO THAT SCENE
...HELP US FIND
HIM PLEASE...
HOWARD...





I CAME FOR THAT PLANT ROCCO!

HA, HA, HA SHEET... SURE TAKE IT.. TAKE THE FRIGGIN' THING!



NO, NO, NO! MAMMAMIA ROCCO... IT'S MINE.. IT'S MY VITO!

LEGGO CARLA... I'M TIRED WATCHIN' YOU Slobber OVER IT... L.E.G.G.O



ROCCO, NO DONT TAKE MY VITO!



OH JONESY ... MR BLUDD I CANT STOP THE BLEEDING ... WE MUST GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL

YES... IN A LITTLE WHILE HOWARD... NOW JONESY CAN YOU HOLD ON LONG ENOUGH TO HELP ME...


I'LL TRY WHA??

I'M GOING TO IMPLANT AN EXPLOSIVE ... ONE THAT CAN BE SET OFF BY A RADIO SIGNAL FROM EARTH


GOOD GOD BLUDD Y'CAN'T

IT'S MY LAST CARD JONESY !!



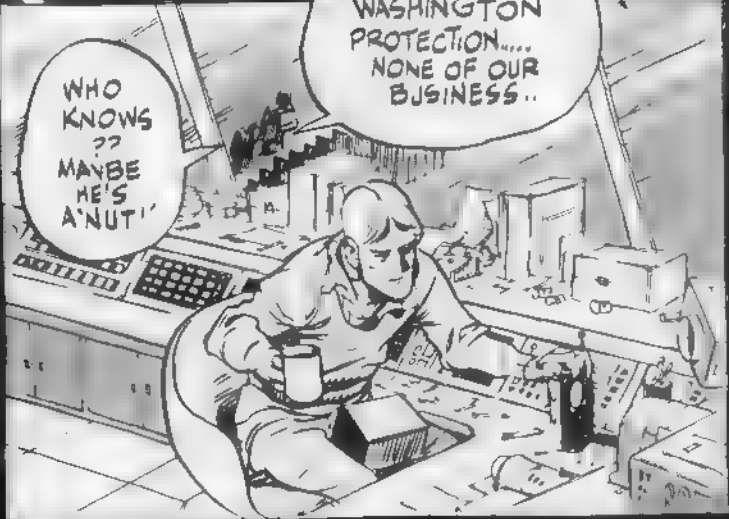


WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY BLUDD?
BEEN HERE SOME TIME NOW... A LONER!
...JUST SITS AT THE MONITOR..WRITES
IN HIS DIARY AND HANGS ONTO THAT
BLACK BOX... STRANGE...




YEAH... I
PEEKED INTO
THAT BOX...
NOTHING IN IT
BUT A RADIO
SENDING
DEVICE...IT
COULD SEND
A LONG-
DISTANCE
SIGNAL
... MAYBE
A BEEP

WHAT
EVER
FOR
?



WELL, HE
CAME WITH 'TOP'
WASHINGTON
PROTECTION....
NONE OF OUR
BUSINESS..

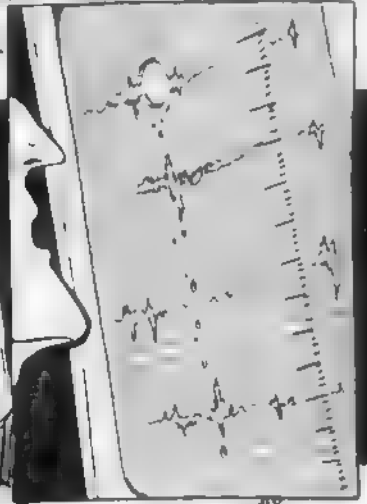
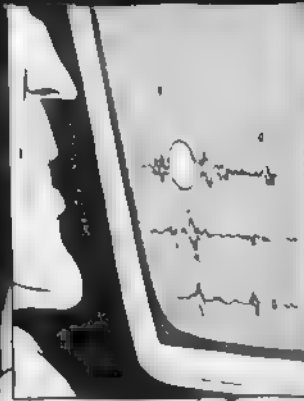
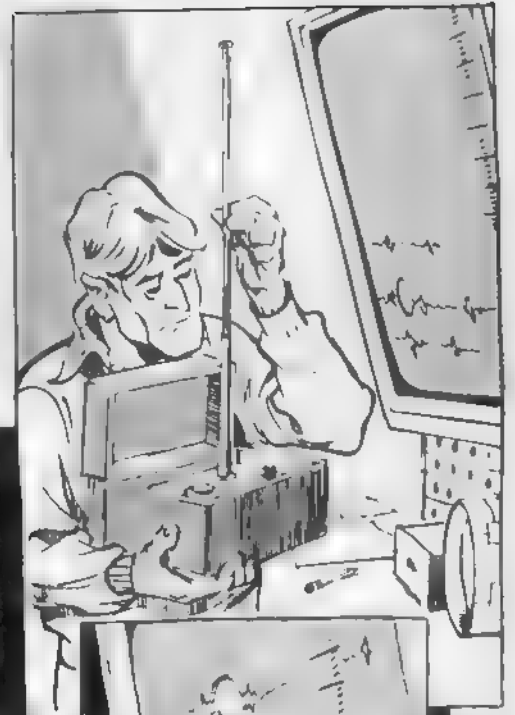
WHO
KNOWS
??
MAYBE
HE'S
A 'NUT'!

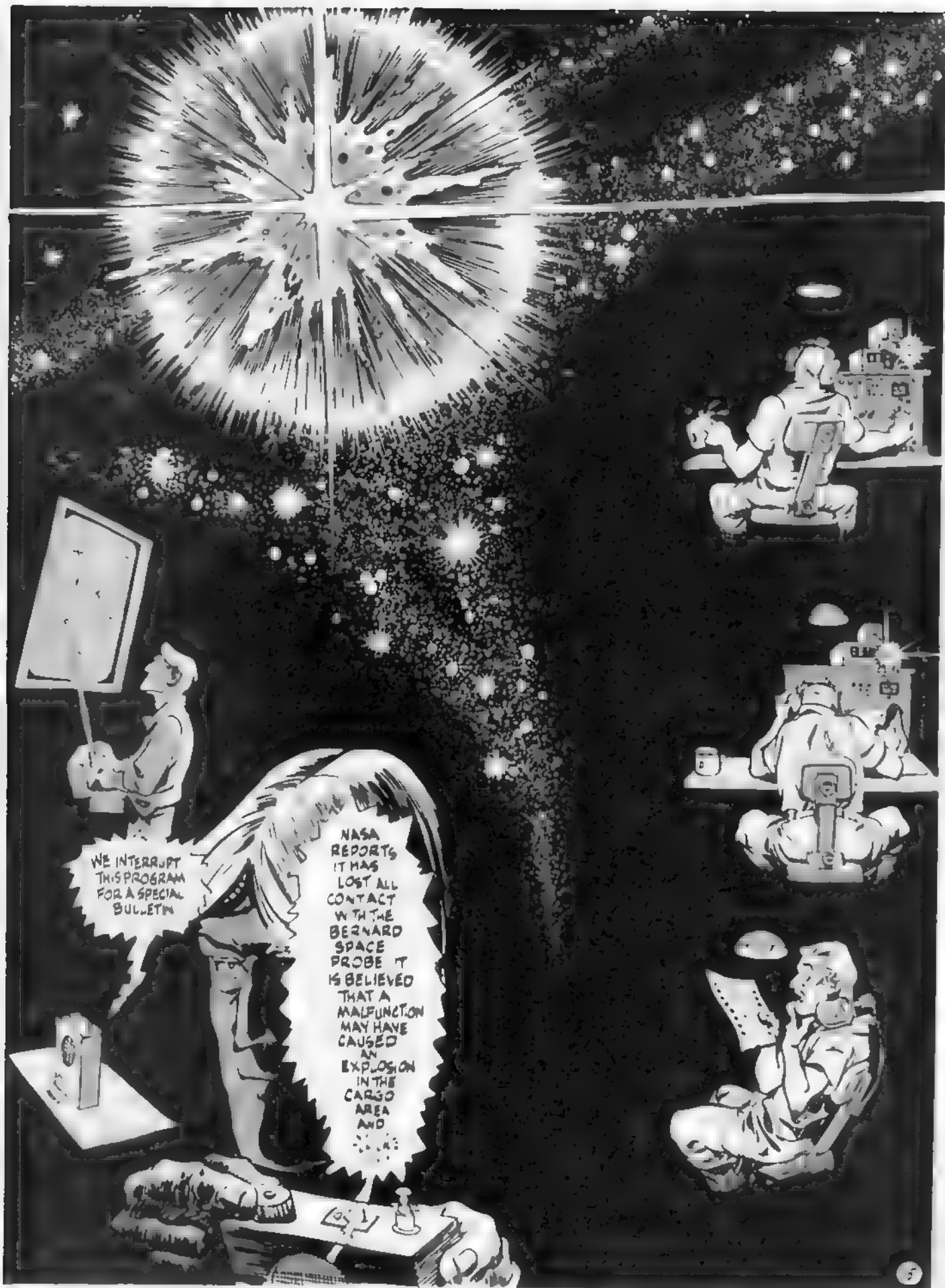


THIS IS
THE NINE
O'CLOCK
NEWS!



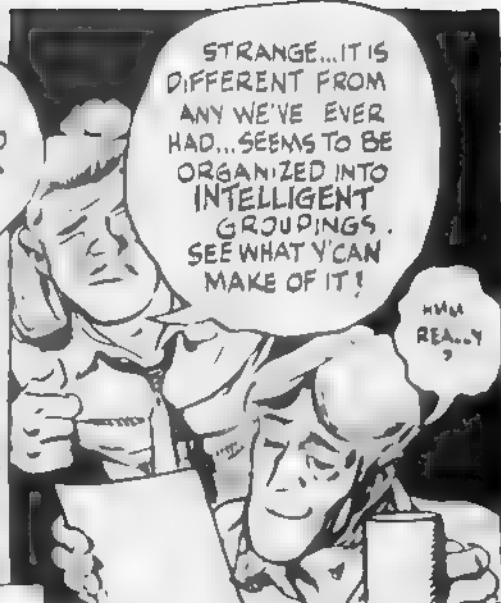
..AND THE
SPACE CENTER
AT HOUSTON HAS
ANNOUNCED THAT A SPACE
PROBE CONTAINING A
'MONITOR' PLANT HAS
BEEN LAUNCHED...IT WILL
REACH THAT DISTANT
PLANET IN 10 YEARS
WHERE HOPEFULLY
WE CAN ESTABLISH
CONTACT WITH AN
INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM
THAT HAS BEAMED
A SIGNAL TO EARTH...







MR BLUDD...
WE'VE JUST
TAPED A RADIO
SIGNAL FROM
"WAY OUT IN
SPACE



STRANGE...IT IS
DIFFERENT FROM
ANY WE'VE EVER
HAD...SEEMS TO BE
ORGANIZED INTO
INTELLIGENT
GROUPINGS.
SEE WHAT Y'CAN
MAKE OF IT!

HMM
REALLY?



THE LAST
CHAPTER

THE END.

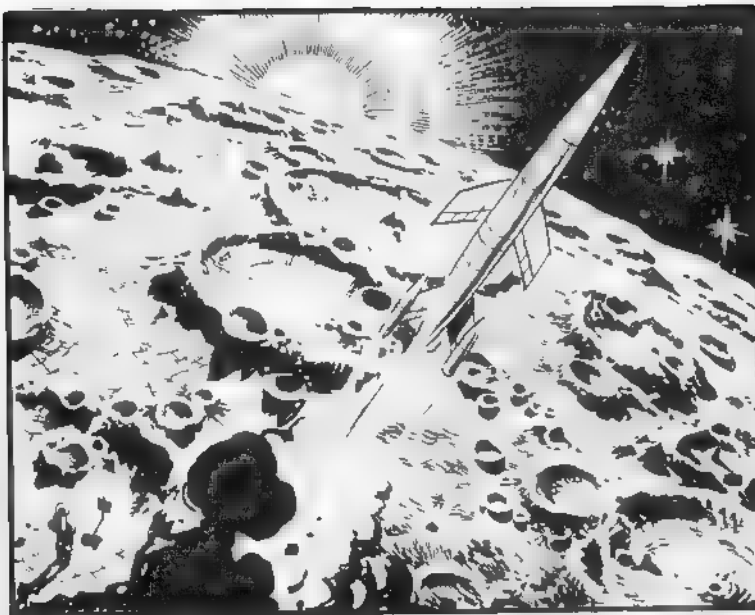
The story you are about to read was actually written long after The Spirit returned to earth....

THE MAN IN THE MOON

BY WILL EISNER

At this very moment Denny Colt, alias the Spirit, in command of the first mission to the moon, is returning to earth.... While the ship is clearing the gravitational field we thought you might be interested in returning to the moon for just a few moments to see what is happening to "Dutch", the gangster who chose to remain rather than return to earth...

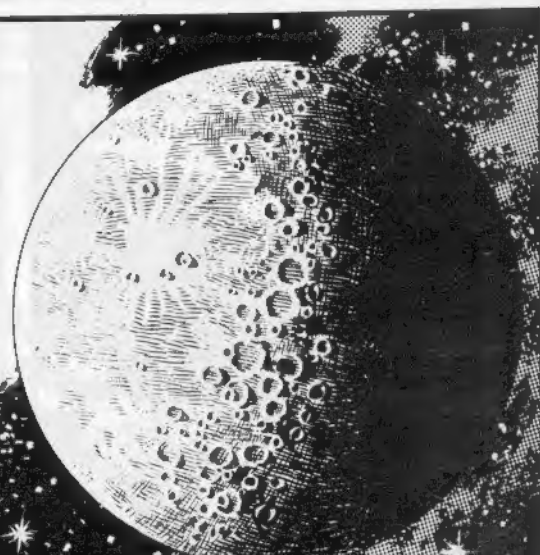








...the rocket ship is no longer visible from the moon...even with a telescope.....and the moon continues its wide movement around the orbit to which it was assigned by fate....



TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...



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